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A Turning Point in Balkan Crisis

Worsening Situation Prompts NATO Escalation

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — The conflict in Yugoslavia escalated sharply on Wednesday as NATO officials painted a darkening picture of repression by Serbs in Kosovo, including the shelling of refugees, and they vowed to respond with more focused air attacks that will reportedly include police and military targets in the center of Belgrade.

Slobodan Milosevic a free hand.

In the Yugoslav capital, Mr. Milosevic and his top aides denounced what they called the "criminal policy" of NATO.

The alliance's civilian spokesman, Jamie Shea, said that Yugoslav authorities in Kosovo were destroying public records, like property deeds, birth certificates and marriage licenses, of ethnic Albanians in what he called an "Orwellian" process of "identity elimination."

James Rubin, the State Department spokesman, again reported wide-ranging expulsions and executions of ethnic Albanians, as well as looting and torching of villages.

Echoing a comment Tuesday by President Bill Clinton, he added: "The more President Mi-

losevic carries out these kinds of atrocities in Kosovo, the less the international community can support his claims to sovereignty over Kosovo."

U.S. policy still favors Kosovo autonomy within Serbia, Mr. Rubin said. But referring to

More news about the situation in Kosovo. Pages 2, 8 and 10.

Mr. Milosevic, he said, "It's simply an analytical fact that he is losing Kosovo."

Mr. Rubin expressed concern over a report that Russia, which has close political and cultural ties to the Serbs, planned to send from one to seven ships from its Black Sea fleet to the

region for to keep watch on the situation.

The United States is "obviously concerned by the signal such a large displacement might send to Belgrade and other countries," Mr. Rubin said.

Moscow had made it clear, he said, that it did not "intend to become entangled in the conflict in the Balkans." But the deployment is not seen in Washington as "a particularly helpful gesture," he added.

Joe Lockhart, the White House spokesman, said there was some concern that Belgrade might wrongly interpret the deployment to mean that the Russian vows of noninterference might be "less than rock-solid."

The New York Times quoted allied officials as saying there was uneasiness about bombing

over the Easter holiday weekend and that there was a strong desire in some NATO countries, especially in Greece and Italy, to find ways to justify a pause.

In Brussels, a NATO spokesman said that to halt the bombing campaign on Easter, and those case pressure on the Serbian forces pursuing ethnic Albanians, would be "deeply inhumane," and he ruled out any respite in the air assault.

As described by NATO officials, the urgent situation on the ground in Kosovo, coupled with the approach of Easter, appeared to place the alliance's strategy of forcing an end to the vi-

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Cloudy Skies Force Pilots To Abort Many Strikes

By Eric Schmitt
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Hampered by overcast skies in recent days, NATO warplanes have bombarded Serbian Army forces, airfields and supply depots around the clock but failed again to knock out air defenses or blunt Serbia's offensive in Kosovo.

Clouds and poor visibility have forced scores of allied fighter-bombers to abort their missions in the weeklong air campaign and return to base, their laser-guided bombs still in their racks, military officials say.

On only one day in eight have pilots had optimal conditions for bombing — a cloud ceiling of at least 25,000 feet (7,600 meters) and visibility of more than five miles (8 kilometers). Tank-killing A-10 Warthogs have flown a patrol, but, as of late Tuesday, they had not dared to dip down into the range of surface-to-air missiles to attack tanks directly.

Under strict rules to attack only when targets are visible to avoid civilian damage, pilots, flying mostly at night, have had to dart in and out of clear patches of sky to drop their payloads.

"The weather has not been in our favor," said Vice Admiral Scott Fry, director of operations for the military's Joint Staff. "It has gotten more difficult with each succeeding night." He refused to say how many missions had been canceled because of the weather.

While the Balkans are notorious for fog and rain, the week has been unusually difficult, officials said, putting

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An image from Serbian television showing hundreds of people on the move in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo.

Kosovo Refugees Follow Trail of Tears

By Peter Finn
Washington Post Service

MORINA PASS, On the Albania-Yugoslavia border — For 10 hours, Ismet Kabashi, 50, and his neighbor, Nubi Kulla, 50, lay in a muddy ditch in their village of Pirane, near the southern Kosovo city of Prizren.

Their farm community of 700 people had been surrounded by Yugoslav troops late last week, and the two fled and hid as soldiers entered Pirane around 8:30 one morning. As they lay wet and shivering, they could hear soldiers going house to house, gunfire occasionally crackling.

By 6:30 P.M., the village had quieted, and the two emerged

and crept to their homes to get fresh clothes and check on their families. Mr. Kabashi said he returned to a slaughterhouse.

His father, Shabam Kabashi, 78, lay at the back of the sitting room, face up, the top of his head blown away. Malush Tulla, 70, a neighbor, lay dead in an armchair with bullet holes in his head. Mr. Tulla's wife, Dudi, also 70, lay face down, just inside the front door, hocking it as Mr. Kabashi tried to push it open.

"I have nothing now," Mr. Kabashi said after crossing into Albania on Tuesday with his mother, Gjylsha, 70, who sat silently in an open tractor cart that was packed with other

See REFUGEES, Page 8

Allies' Bid to Halt Serbs Faces Serious Obstacles

Failure to Stop Milosevic Strains NATO Unity

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

BRUSSELS — Senior NATO officials say they confront serious military and political difficulties in halting a brutal Serb offensive that has already devastated Kosovo and overwhelmed neighboring states with a massive flood of refugees.

Allied commanders have revised their strategy to focus more firepower on disrupting Serb attacks on the ground and pummeling targets right up the chain of command.

But there are no guarantees that the broadened scope and accelerated tempo of bombing raids that was approved by allied governments early Wednesday will succeed. By the terms of its original mission, which the secretary-general of NATO, Javier Solana Madariaga, described as "the need to stop the killing and prevent a humanitarian disaster," NATO already appears to have failed.

Alliance commanders say the new strategy will take direct aim at Yugoslavia's political and military hierarchy, including President Slobodan Milosevic. General Klaus Naumann, chairman of NATO's military committee, said: "His sole interest is to cling to power. We are going to grind his armed forces to pieces and chip away at all of the instruments that keep him in power until we succeed."

Key decisions in the bombing campaign are placing enormous stress on the



Pope John Paul II is sending a delegation to Belgrade to discuss peace.

cumbersome process of maintaining consensus. When Italy and Greece raised the idea of a bombing pause over Easter, allied military commanders warned that a 10-day moratorium — from Good Friday to the celebration of Christian Orthodox Easter — would allow Mr. Milosevic to lay waste to Kosovo and finish his "ethnic cleansing" campaign with impunity.

In Rome, where the Italian government has had to repeatedly fend off

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Indonesia Seen on Mend With a Rebound in '99

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

JAKARTA — Indonesia's badly battered economy appears to be stabilizing and could return to growth before the year is out, according to officials and analysts who have been tracking it.

Their cautious reassessment came as Standard & Poor's Corp., the U.S.-based credit-rating concern, said Wednesday that the outlook for Indonesia's foreign and local currency debt was now stable.

It said this was so even though Indonesia's corporate sector had been devastated by the collapse of the rupiah as financial turmoil spread from Thailand to other parts of East Asia in 1997 and 1998.

The report, on the day before Indonesia starts its new budget year, followed several recent promising developments — including major surgery to restore the heavily indebted banking system to health and an agreement with foreign banks that allows local banks more time to repay their loans.

It attributed the improvement to moves by the Indonesian central bank, backed by the International Monetary Fund, to restore monetary discipline, stabilize the rupiah, and reduce inflation from almost 70 percent in 1998 to an

expected average of about 25 percent in 1999.

Indonesian financial markets were closed Wednesday for the end of the fiscal year. But the dollar was quoted at 8,745 rupiah at the close of trading on Tuesday — almost exactly the same level as a year earlier.

The dollar brought only 2,400 rupiah before the East Asian financial crisis struck in July 1997.

Hit by that crisis, Indonesia's economy shrank by 13 percent in 1998-99. But Dono Iskandar Djojodibroto, managing director of Bank Indonesia, the

See INDONESIA, Page 14

AGENDA

| The Dollar | | | |
|------------|------------------|----------------|--|
| New York | Wednesday 3 P.M. | previous close | |
| Euro | 1.0755 | 1.0732 | |
| Pound | 1.612 | 1.6118 | |
| Yen | 119.025 | 120.295 | |
| DM | 1.8177 | 1.8242 | |
| FF | 8.0963 | 8.1178 | |

| The Dow | | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------|--|
| Wednesday 3:30 | percent change | | |
| -104.06 | 9,809.20 | -1.05% | |
| -7.46 | 1,293.29 | -0.57% | |
| -7.68 | 2,472.61 | -0.31% | |

Consumer Spending Fuels U.S. Growth

The U.S. economy grew at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6 percent, the fastest pace in more than two years, in the fourth quarter of 1998, revised Commerce Department figures showed. Vigorous consumer spending and an improved trade picture led the way. Page 13

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The IHT on-line www.ihb.com

U.S. Warns North Korea Not to Test or Sell Missiles

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUL — The United States has warned North Korea of "very serious consequences" if it test-fires or exports its new long-range missiles, a senior U.S. official said Wednesday.

North Korea said it would not change its missile policy under "constant threats" from the United States, but there were reports that it was willing to consider limits on its missile program in return for cash compensation.

Any further flight-testing of long-range missiles and any further exports would have "very serious negative consequences" for the evolution of relations between the United States and North Korea, Robert Einhorn, the deputy assistant secretary of state for nonproliferation, said after flying into Seoul from Pyongyang.

Talks on the North Korean missile program have been held sporadically since April 1996.

But this round of talks was the first

since Pyongyang surprised the world last August by firing a new generation, three-stage rocket that flew over Japan and into the Pacific.

North Korea said it was only putting a small satellite into orbit, but the test has added to tension in its relations with several countries, especially Japan.

Mr. Einhorn is scheduled to fly to Tokyo on Thursday to brief Japanese officials. He held talks in Pyongyang on Monday and Tuesday about the North Korean missile program, and he said the discussions were substantive but achieved no breakthrough.

"This round of talks was highly substantive," he said. "We had frank exchanges. I can't say we made any breakthrough."

North Korea repeated its demand for compensation to end exports of missiles and missile technology, a senior U.S. administration official said.

See KOREA, Page 12

Revival Built on a Glittering Museum

Guggenheim Bilbao Draws Crowds and Cash to Basque Country City

By T.R. Reid
Washington Post Service

BILBAO, Spain — Can a single building bring a whole city back to life?

More precisely, can a single modern building designed for an abandoned shipyard by a laid-back California architect breathe new economic and cultural life into a decaying industrial city in the Spanish rust belt?

It would be a tall order for an ordinary building, but the sprawling, curving, shimmering titanium structure that Frank Gehry designed for the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao is anything but that. Philip Johnson, no mean architect himself, calls Mr. Gehry's new museum "the greatest building of our time." The Times of London says it is "the world's most exciting modern building."

And for Bilbao's debt-ridden government, which somehow scratched to-

gether \$100 million to place a huge bet on this daring structure, it has been a smashing success.

In the 18 months since the museum opened, tourism here in Spain's Basque Country has increased 28 percent, nearly all of it attributed to the Guggenheim.

A study by the consulting firm KPMG found that the museum "in its first 12 months generated added value and wealth in the economy of the Basque Country of more than \$160 million" — enough to create 3,800 jobs. For cities around the world, it has become the classic case study of economic revival based on culture.

"Normally, you couldn't say that a single building saved a city," said Josu Jon Imaz, commerce minister of the provincial government. "But this building — it's magic!"

"Our media image in Basque Country had unfortunately been shaped by our years of terrorist violence. But now

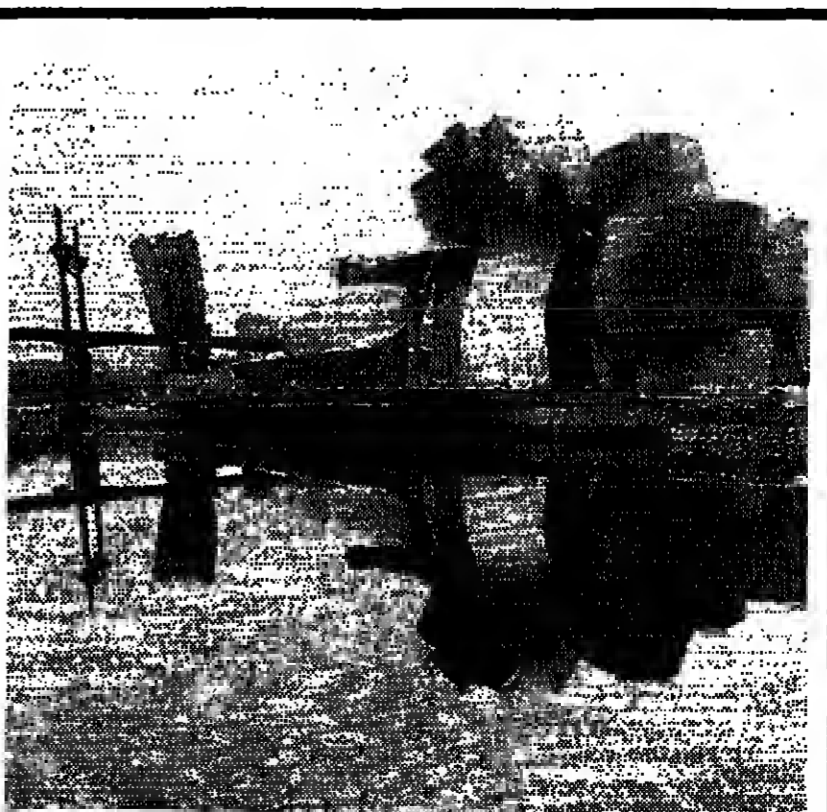
the reports are about our wonderful museum. We are depicted as modern, alive, a place that turned to the arts to improve the urban environment."

The commerce minister said that the impact goes beyond tourism, which has never been as important here in the gritty cities of northern Spain as it is on the sunny Mediterranean shores far to the south.

"To attract industry, a region needs a transport infrastructure, good communications, an educated labor force. We always had that, but who knew? Today, our Guggenheim Museum gets companies to come here in the first place, and then they see what we have to offer."

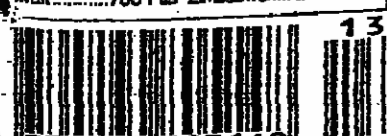
The Basque government has hired other prominent architects to help reverse its battered image. A new subway system, new bridges and a new airport are also in the works.

See BILBAO, Page 11



The museum added \$160 million to the local economy in 12 months.

| Newsstand Prices | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Bahran | 1,000 BD |
| Cyprus | £ 1.00 |
| Denmark | 17 DKR |
| Finland | 12.00 FM |
| Gibraltar | £ 0.85 |
| Great Britain | £ 1.00 |
| India | SE 5.50 |
| Japan | 1,250 JPY |
| Korea | 1,250 KRW |
| Malaysia | 700 MYR |



THE AMERICAS

A Hat-Passing Race for 2000 Hopefuls, With Dollars a Sign of Their Strength

By Richard L. Berke
New York Times Service

AUSTIN, Texas — Presidential candidates, who always seem desperate for money, have been racing around the country even more feverishly in the last several days, hitting up contributors at back-to-back fund-raising events and twisting arms even tighter than usual.

The White House hopefuls have been scrambling to meet a daunting deadline: They wanted to amass as much money as they could by the close of business on Wednesday.

This frenzy was set off because first-quarter fund-raising reports that candidates file with the Federal Election Commission cover the period through March 31.

Since there are few tangible ways to gauge a candidate's strength 10 months before the first votes are cast, these first

filings have taken on outsized importance. The hope among campaigns is that they can demonstrate, through raw dollar, their credibility among party leaders and in the press.

Early money is particularly vital in the 2000 race because with a compressed calendar of party contests, most contenders will have to collect the bulk of their war chests this year.

Expectations are highest, of course, for the two early favorites, Governor George Bush of Texas and Vice President Al Gore. It is in their interest to play up the importance of early money.

Asked in an interview in Austin on Tuesday how crucial the first-quarter report would be, Mr. Bush said, "It's the first bit of real hard news there is in a campaign."

His finance chairman, Don Evans, said Mr. Bush would probably take in about \$4 million.

By contrast, former Vice President Dan Quayle, who, his advisers said, expects to raise \$2 million, played down expectations.

"We're going to have the necessary money to get our message out," he said. Recalling how former Governor John Connally of Texas spent \$13 million in the Republican primaries in 1980 and won just one delegate, he added, "This idea that you need to be No. 1 in fund raising — well President Connally found out that wasn't true."

Indeed, as in the case of Mr. Connally and another Texas Republican four years ago, Senator Phil Gramm, reading too much into these reports can be an arbitrary exercise. Many campaigns have just gotten under way. Elizabeth Dole, for example, has scheduled her first big fund-raiser for late April.

Yet sometimes these early filings are quite telling. "It shows you're in the

game," said Rick Wright, the national finance director for former Senator Bill Bradley, Democrat of New Jersey.

In 1988, Michael Dukakis collected more money, earlier, than any other Democratic presidential candidate. His fat bank account forced political professionals and prospective supporters to take him seriously — and those early perceptions helped him win the nomination.

"They all want to look good," said Stan Huckaby, a consultant who is advising several Republican presidential candidates on how to set up their fund-raising structures. "But I don't think in the first quarter you really know anything."

If you had a candidate who raised a small amount of money by the 31st of March, to know how he's really doing you should ask specific questions such as: Does he have major fund-raisers

planned in April or May that didn't show up in the report?"

That has not stopped campaigns from instructing their staffs to be sure to deposit every check by March 31. (The quarterly reports do not actually have to be filed with the Federal Election Commission until April 15.) And it has not stopped campaigns from trying to lower expectations about how much they will raise.

Advisers to Mr. Gore, for example, have been telling reporters in recent days that his only rival for the Democratic nomination, Mr. Bradley, has been wildly successful in raising money.

Mr. Gore has been raising money longer than Mr. Bush, and his advisers said they expected to take in as much as \$7 million. As part of the vice president's end-of-the-quarter hectic push for money, his campaign mailed a solicitation to 500,000 people on March 17 and held fund-raising events in Chicago and

Birmingham, Alabama, on Monday. Most other campaigns have had to hustle even more bluntly. Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, integrated the quarterly reports into his pitch.

"At the end of March, we will file an FEC report," he said at a breakfast in Washington last week. "That will be the next judgment that the chattering class around here will make. We will have raised a sufficient amount of money to be credible."

Ever mindful of Mr. Bush, he added, "We're not going to raise the most money."

Another candidate, Senator Robert Smith, Republican of New Hampshire, also was making excuses even before the end of the filing period.

"Unfortunately, we didn't start raising money until the end of February. Literally," he said he could get by anyway because "I'm a very frugal guy."

Smoking Suit Ends in Award Of \$81 Million

By Barry Meier
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A state jury in Portland, Oregon, has ordered the largest award yet in a smoking-related lawsuit, ruling that Philip Morris Cos. must pay \$81 million to the family of a man who smoked Marlboro cigarettes for four decades before he died.

The verdict Tuesday, coming just a month after a San Francisco jury awarded \$51 million in another case brought by an individual smoker against Philip Morris, could indicate that the tobacco industry's legal fortunes may have shifted, analysts said. In recent years, the public has witnessed a constant drumbeat of documents damaging to cigarette makers, which industry analysts say may be a factor in the jury decisions.

For example, in both cases involving Philip Morris, the juries called for large punitive damages, which are meant to punish a company for its behavior. In its decision Tuesday, the jury awarded \$79.5 million in punitive damages and \$1.6 million in compensatory damages to the family of Jesse Williams, a janitor who died in 1997, five months after lung cancer was diagnosed. In the San Francisco case, the jury awarded \$50 million in punitive damages.

Mr. Williams's wife, Mayola, said Tuesday that he had had a dying wish.



Mayola Williams, left, and her daughter, Joann, smiling in Oregon after they won the biggest liability award ever against a tobacco company.

"He wanted to make cigarette companies stop lying about the health problems of smokers," she told The Associated Press. "This jury agreed with his goals."

Philip Morris, which is appealing the California verdict, said that it would also appeal the Oregon verdict. Higher courts have thrown out the few previous victories by smokers in cigarette-related lawsuits, often on procedural grounds.

"No verdict has ever withstood an appeal and we don't believe this will be a first one," said Gregory Little, the associate general counsel for Philip

Morris, which is the largest U.S. cigarette maker.

Gary Black, a tobacco industry analyst with Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. in New York, said that added to the California decision, the Oregon verdict suggested that the industry's \$206 billion settlement last year with 46 states had failed to put its legal troubles to rest.

Under that agreement, which resolved lawsuits brought by the states to recover health care expenses related to smoking, individual smokers and groups of them can still sue. Four states earlier settled their claims in deals with the industry.

Kosovo Spotlight Shines on Gore

By Katharine Q. Seelye
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — While some Republican presidential candidates are trying to avoid the thorny subject of American involvement in Kosovo, Vice President Al Gore does not have that luxury.

The vice president is inextricably entwined with the Clinton administration's policy on the bombing campaign. He describes himself as an "active participant" in the decision-making, and he has been a strong advocate of the bombing while he campaigns and raises money across the country — a political pursuit that Republicans have called "a disgrace" while Americans are at risk in the aerial conflict.

Behind the scenes, Mr. Gore was the one who informed former Presidents George Bush, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter of the impending air strikes.

He called Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov of Russia to tell him that NATO was beginning the bombings, leading Mr. Primakov to cancel a meeting in Washington and turn his flight around over the Atlantic.

Mr. Gore has been meeting privately with President Bill Clinton and participating in military briefings at the White House.

In expressing his support for the bombing, Mr. Gore said in Alabama, "Despite the risks, in my opinion, we are doing the right thing."

Administration officials say that Mr. Gore has always carried weight on foreign affairs in the White House, partly because of his military service — he worked as an army journalist for seven

months in Vietnam — and because he specialized in subjects such as arms control during his eight years in the Senate.

"The vice president always comes to the table prepared and with strong views," said Joe Lockhart, Mr. Clinton's spokesman. "I know the president relies on him. He's the one who has no institutional representation; he doesn't represent the Pentagon, he doesn't represent the State Department."

Mr. Clinton has largely been using Mr. Gore, though, as a public spokesman on the U.S.-led NATO bombings. "One of the best roles he can play is articulating the policy," an administration official said.

When the bombing began last week, Mr. Gore's team considered scrapping a long-planned political trip to New Hampshire. But they concluded that the amount of press attention that he would attract — this was the first trip on which he was to mingle with small groups of voters — would be useful in helping to advance the administration's policy.

Indeed, while he was in North Conway, New Hampshire, on Friday night, his interviews about Kosovo with local television stations were broadcast by the national networks.

Mr. Gore said that although the decision to begin air strikes was a difficult one, "it was not an especially controversial decision internally" because the administration was convinced that President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia was committing atrocities.

"Everybody understands this guy is a hatcher," Mr. Gore said, adding that he expected the bombing to continue for a long time.

In a half-dozen speeches throughout his two-day swing across New Hampshire, the vice president talked about the bombings.

At a gathering of about 70 people in a living room in Concord, he described Mr. Milosevic this way: "He's one of these junior-league Hitler types who tries to hold on to power by stirring up hatred among his own people."

He said of American participation in the bombing, "If we stood by and did nothing while this kind of activity occurred, we would not be true to our values."

In response to a question, Mr. Gore said: "I do not support the introduction of ground troops in combat settings in the Balkans. I believe we can achieve our objectives through the use of air power."

That comment was a clearer formulation than other administration officials, including Mr. Clinton, have offered in their briefings and speeches, when they have taken care to say they have "no plans" for ground troops.

Mr. Gore is virtually the only presidential candidate who, whether by design or duty, has tied himself so definitively to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization mission, and if the Kosovo campaign turns sour and loses public support, he would have the most difficult time extricating himself politically.

Mr. Gore's only rival for the Democratic nomination, Bill Bradley, a former senator from New Jersey, has raised red flags about the effort, saying that the administration has no clear exit strategy and that the nation runs the risk of a Vietnam-like quagmire.

BOOKS

APOCALYPSE PRETTY SOON
Travels in End-Time America

By Alex Heard. Illustrated. 360 pages. \$24.95. W.W. Norton.

Reviewed by
Maureen Corrigan

AS THE hours tick down to the end of the millennium and anxiety escalates over the advent of the Antichrist, computer bugs and Dick Clark's ultimate "New Year's Rockin' Eve," I catch myself fantasizing about the old story of Rip Van Winkle. Ah, to meet some mischievous Catskill Mountain dwarfs, as Rip did, drink their sleep-inducing draft and awaken 20 years hence.

I am even more drawn to the notion of snoozing through the turn of the millennium after reading Alex Heard's "Apocalypse Pretty Soon," a book populated by the kind of people for whom the phrase "get a life" was coined.

Heard, an editor at Wired magazine who has been an editor and reporter for The New Republic, The New York Times Magazine and other publications, has spent the last 10 years interviewing many of his fellow Americans who believe that weird things will happen in the near future.

There are the Uranians, who with an almost poignant faith in the power of education, expect that in 2001 a stack of interlocking spaceships will land in the California desert, where a bevy of extraterrestrial-

als from different planets will establish a New Age university. Far darker in their predilections are Earth Changers, who warn that Mother Earth has had enough of humankind's abuse and will soon unleash a vengeful rash of famine, disease, floods and continent-altering earthquakes.

Heard sums up the Earth Changers' theology with the catchy motto, "My planet wants me dead."

Heard also spent time with dreamers of immortality. There are the life-extensionists who believe that megadoses of vitamins will keep them breathing for centuries, and the cryonics techies who plan to keep their bodies (or at least their heads) on ice until scientific advances grant them eternal life. We also meet a jolly bunch of libertarians who want to greet the millennium in their own South Pacific micronation called the Freedomland of Merica.

To give his subjects their due, Heard resolved that he would try not to practice what he advocates: "journalism with intent to kill" and that he "would attempt to understand things from the believers' perspective, always based on deep immersion in their canonical texts and first-hand reporting." Heroically, he plows his way through books with titles like, "Why Die?" "If We Can Keep a Severed Head Alive..." and "How to Start Your Own Country."

Despite Heard's intrepid investigative skills, however, his book about believers in Revelation, sacred and pro-

phane, does not contain many revelations of its own. His big discovery is that most millennialists, despite their gloom-and-doom predictions, are upbeat because they have faith that the coming world will be better than the old. Otherwise, "Apocalypse Pretty Soon" simply confirms something most of its readers already know: America is a big country and there are a lot of ding-a-lings out there.

Heard's wobbly stance as a cultural anthropologist further undermines his intellectual authority. In interviewing amiable subjects like the Uranians or hard-core members of the Christian Identity movement, he keeps his distance. But when he and his wife attend a weekend session at a private institute in Virginia devoted to the study of the paranormal, the quest turns personal: "I've always vaguely wanted to believe we will exist again as whooshing spirits," he writes. "Ever since my dad died, in 1979, I'd slowly moved further in that direction."

Similarly, when he describes going to services at a Pentecostal church in Harlem for a few months, it is not clear what he thinks or how he represents himself. Throughout his book, he either needed to take the rhetorical (and perhaps even emotional) risk of "going native" or he should have maintained his professional boundaries and chanced being seen as elitist.

Heard's relationship to his subjects and their beliefs is further muddled by his most

likable quality as a narrator — his sense of humor. Despite his avowal to try to walk a mile in the millennialists' shoes, he cannot help cracking wise at the absurdity of the sights he is seeing along the way.

Frequently, though, his humor manifests itself in glib, breezy language that betokens his hipper-than-thou self-image. Though he professes admiration for Arthur Blessitt, an evangelist whose goal is to carry an 80-pound wooden cross to every nation in the world before 2000, he cheekily characterizes Blessitt's mission as "humping the timber." Heard also has a wearisome habit of constantly invoking pop-culture icons and, thus, implicitly trivializing his subjects.

Various millennialists and Uranians are compared to the likes of Aunt Clara from "Bewitched" and Dr. Zaius from "Planet of the Apes." Heard needed to go beyond these citations and make substantive connections to the recurring appearances of utopian and dystopian crystal-ball gazers in American history.

Perhaps "Apocalypse Pretty Soon" would have worked better as a series of magazine pieces in which Heard's witty voice would not have exhausted itself against the exigencies of writing a book that purports to be more than just entertainment.

Maureen Corrigan, book critic for the National Public Radio program "Fresh Air," wrote this for The New York Times.

POLITICAL NOTES

Giuliani Clarifies Web Motive

NEW YORK — Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, the undeclared Republican candidate for U.S. Senate, says a Web site set up by his supporters was not intended as an attack on Hillary Rodham Clinton but rather as an effort to capitalize on the fund-raising opportunity presented by her potential Senate candidacy.

Mr. Giuliani said he would be politically remiss not to take advantage of all the attention raised by Mrs. Clinton. "The reality," he said, "is that we want to take advantage of those people who think that she shouldn't run for the Senate, of which there are many and who feel very fervently about it. I would be foolish if I didn't take advantage of that. It's an opportunity that she's presented us."

For Christopher, a Last Laugh

WASHINGTON — Former Secretary of State Warren Christopher, still dapper and still a master at deadpan humor, was a stand-up comic at the unveiling of his official portrait at the State Department.

"Having your portrait painted is a strange experience," he said to a crowd including President Bill Clinton and Mr. Christopher's replacement, Madeleine Albright, who presided over the unveiling of the portrait by Everett Raymond Kinsler.

"At the same time, to anyone who has served in Washington, there is something oddly familiar about it. First you're painted into a corner, then you're hung out to dry, and finally you're framed," he deadpanned to laughter in the State Department's ornate Benjamin Franklin Room.

In Alabama, Deadlock Is Over

ATLANTA — After more than a month of fierce factional deadlock and ridicule, the Alabama state Senate found its way out of the procedural chaos that had prevented any legislation from being passed and threatened to paralyze state government.

Faced with a deadline that was jeopardizing Governor Donald Siegelman's first-year legislative agenda, the governor's Democratic allies agreed to return some of the power that they had stripped from Lieutenant Governor Steve Windom, a Republican. In exchange, Mr. Windom agreed to share control over the Senate with Democratic leaders.

Away From Politics

• Texas has executed a man who spent 25 years on death row, the longest of any current inmate. Robert Excell White, 61, was executed by lethal injection in Huntsville for the murders of four people in 1974. (AP)

• The Immigration and Naturalization Service is deploying 200 agents to help law enforcement agencies in 11 states. It announced the formation of 45 quick response teams that will be sent to Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Utah. (AP)

• Anne Arundel County in Maryland has scrapped its adopt-a-road program rather than let the Ku Klux Klan participate and have its signs posted along a mile of roadway. (AP)

• Ford Motor Co. said it would be the first major carmaker to install an emergency trunk release as a standard feature. All Ford, Lincoln and Mercury cars sold in the United States and Canada will have the feature. (AP)

McDougal Court Allows Testimony Against Starr

Los Angeles Times Service

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas — The judge in the Susan McDougal contempt trial has decided that the jury can hear allegations of harassment against the office of Kenneth Starr made by a Virginia woman under indictment in the Monica Lewinsky investigation.

The ruling Tuesday was a key victory for Mrs. McDougal in trying to turn the tables on Mr. Starr, and effectively put him on trial for aggressive tactics used in prosecuting her and other supporters of President Bill Clinton. Mrs. McDougal has sought to show that Julie Hiatt Steele, a minor figure in the Clinton-Lewinsky saga, suffered the sort of intimidation and abuse that Mrs. McDougal claims was wrought upon her.

But prosecutors said Mrs. Steele's testimony was irrelevant, and they were clearly taken aback by the decision of U.S. District Court Judge George Howard Jr. to allow the jury to hear it, probably on Friday. "We're treading on dangerous, dangerous ground here," Julie Myers, the associate independent counsel, told the judge.

Ms. Steele goes on trial May 3. At the request of Mr. Starr's prosecutors, a grand jury in Virginia indicted her in January on four felony counts of obstructing justice and making a false statement in connection with her sworn testimony regarding Mr. Clinton's alleged groping of her one-time friend, Kathleen Willey.

Ms. Steele originally supported Mrs. Willey's version of events, saying Mrs. Willey confided in her immediately after the alleged encounter in the White House with Mr. Clinton in 1993. She later retracted that statement in sworn testimony, saying she had been lying. But prosecutors believe the retraction was a lie, made at the urging of Mr. Clinton's supporters.

Ms. Steele testified for 10 minutes Tuesday afternoon, outside the presence of the jury, telling Judge Howard what she would say if allowed to testify at Mrs. McDougal's trial.

She portrayed herself as a victim of unfair tactics employed by Mr. Starr's Washington prosecutors and FBI agents, saying she was misled into thinking she might be a witness — not a target — of their investigation.

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NOTICE TO THE SHAREHOLDERS

The Board of Directors of the Company has decided the following relevant amendments to the prospectus of the SICAV with effective one month after this publication: Change of the investment policy as follows of the:

SKANDIFOND INTERNATIONAL NORCE OBLIGASJONFOND

This Sub-Fund shall invest only in interest bearing securities issued by government, state, municipality or similar public entities in zone A or issued by or guaranteed by a multinational entity where at least one member country is a member of the EMU. The net asset value per share is expressed in Norwegian Kroner, only "A" shares are offered.

Zone A includes the following Nations: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom and USA.

The shareholders of the SKANDIFOND INTERNATIONAL - NORCE OBLIGASJONFOND Sub-Fund have the possibility either to redeem their shares at net asset value or to switch their shares to any other Sub-Funds of the SKANDIFOND INTERNATIONAL SICAV without any expenses during a one month period after this publication.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

THOUSANDS of players from around North America and a handful from other countries converged on Vancouver, British Columbia, for the 11 days of the American Contract Bridge League's Spring Nationals. Many will recall the only previous such occasion there, or anywhere else in Western Canada, a quarter-century ago.

That tournament ended in a Canadian triumph: A young and little-known foursome including Joe Silver and Eric Kokish of Montreal captured the prestigious Vanderbilt Knockout Teams title. Their teammates were two California brothers, Dave and Bob

Crossley. At the time they were respectively 33, 26, 25 and 23, the youngest team ever to win the Vanderbilt, even today. In the final they won by 30 imps against a Precision team led by Kathie Wei.

On the third deal, shown in the diagram, Silver as South brought home an aggressive slam contract that hinged on the opening lead. East had donbied a cue-bid of five spades to suggest a lead in that suit, but West thought he knew better. Using the Rusbult style of lower from touching honors, he led the heart queen, the card he would have chosen without any other indications. But the sequel showed that he was wrong.

Silver allowed the heart queen to hold, and won

West's trump shift in the dummy. He crossed to the club king, finessed the heart jack successfully, and cashed dummy's remaining trump honor. Next he crossed to the club ace and ruffed the 10 with dummy's last trump. A spade was thrown on the heart ace, and the play of the spade ace and a spade ruff permitted him to draw the missing trump.

He had made a slam thanks to favorable breaks and a favorable lead. In the replay, North-South rested in five diamonds, and the Silver team gained 11 imps. East probably had something to say about the heart lead against six diamonds: It swung 22 imps, a large part of the eventual margin of victory.

| NORTH (D) | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|-------|------|
| ♠ A J 8 7 6 | | | |
| ♥ A J 3 | | | |
| ♦ K Q 5 | | | |
| ♣ 8 4 | | | |
| WEST | | | |
| ♠ 9 5 | | | |
| ♥ K Q 10 9 | | | |
| ♦ 9 8 4 | | | |
| ♣ 9 8 7 5 | | | |
| EAST | | | |
| ♠ K Q 10 4 | | | |
| ♥ 8 6 3 2 | | | |
| ♦ J 10 | | | |
| ♣ J 3 2 | | | |
| SOUTH | | | |
| ♠ 3 2 | | | |
| ♥ 7 6 | | | |
| ♦ A 7 6 3 2 | | | |
| ♣ A K Q 10 | | | |
| East and West were vulnerable. | | | |
| The bidding: | | | |
| North | East | South | West |
| 1 ♠ | Pass | 2 ♠ | Pass |
| 3 ♠ | Pass | 4 ♠ | Pass |
| 4 ♠ | Pass | 5 ♠ | Pass |
| 5 ♠ | Dbl. | 6 ♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |
| West led the heart queen. | | | |

OPINION/LETTERS

A Lesson for Yugoslavia In Bangladesh's History

By Philip Bowring

DHAKA — The Indian Subcontinent offers some important lessons for Yugoslavia. It is a pity that India, with almost characteristic hypocrisy, has been so quick to criticize the NATO action as interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state.

The Delhi statement sounded odd here last week when Bangladesh was celebrating the anniversary of its independence. The final success of Bangladesh's war of liberation from Pakistan, achieved in December 1971, was due to India's massive and direct military intervention in support of the secessionist movement.

The creation of Bangladesh — now the world's eighth most populous nation — was by far the largest increase since 1945 of one state participating with military force in the dismemberment of another. It created a precedent that is worth examining.

India's motives in 1971 were certainly not entirely idealistic. It had every interest in the dismemberment of its main enemy, Pakistan, and the creation of an India's eastern border of a state that was weak and in India's debt.

But mixed motives did not detract from the legitimacy of Indian intervention in support of a liberation movement that had overwhelming popular support.

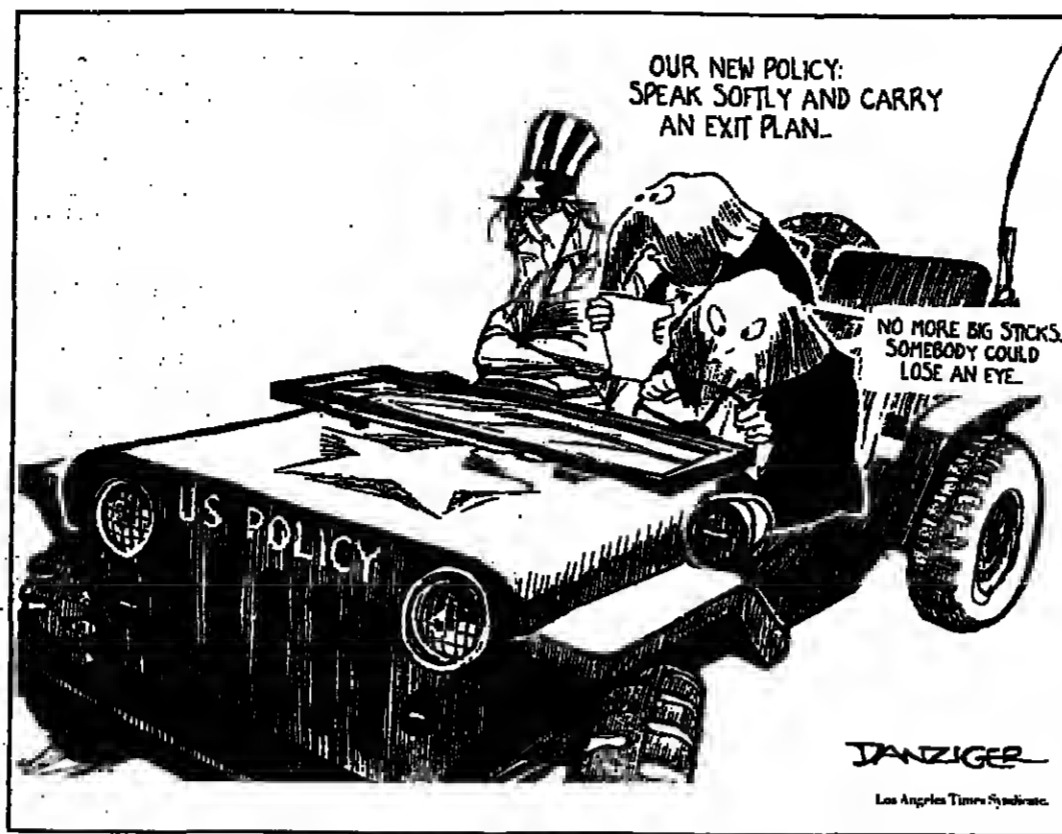
fought against a Pakistani military not noted for adherence to human rights — though better behaved than the forces of President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia in Kosovo.

In 1971, there were numerous warnings — including from Prime Minister Chou En-lai of China — that the establishment of Bangladesh would set an appalling precedent for the unity of India itself as well as for the territorial integrity of many newly independent states in Africa and Asia.

But in international opinion, the justice of the Bangladeshi cause was a stronger force and contributed to Pakistan's eventual admission of defeat.

Bangladesh was the first, and is still by far the most important, post-1945 case of recognizing that not all the borders and sovereign states created at the end of empires were immutable. Further adjustments to the states created by European empires in Asia and Africa, as well as by the successors to the Ottoman and Habsburg empires in Europe, were likely.

Yugoslavia was a well-intentioned construct intended to bring an identity to a part of the post-Ottoman/Habsburg world just as a two-winged Pakistan was an attempt to resolve some of the contradictions arising from the end of British India. Neither worked.



The necessary readjustments may be painful but they do become the least bad options. Indonesia has learned that lesson in East Timor. The other lesson of Bangladesh that may be relevant in Kosovo is the staying power of well-defined communities. Bangladesh has established itself as a viable state with a strong identity and no likelihood of breaking up or being invaded. Poor it remains, and not well-governed. But from wretched

beginnings it has made much more progress than Pakistan in areas from agriculture to education, women's rights and family planning. Much of this must be attributable to having the most homogeneous population in South Asia — indeed in all of Asia outside Japan and South Korea. At the same time, the relative success of Bangladesh has had no visible negative impact on India, which faces no secessionist prob-

lems other than the endless sore of Kashmir, an issue which long predates 1971. India shows how heterogeneous societies can work given political commitment to religious and linguistic pluralism — long lacking in Yugoslavia. As Mr. Milosevic has no interest in Indian-style pluralism, the principles that India applied in Bangladesh in 1971 should be applied by NATO in Kosovo.

International Herald Tribune.

If Prozac Doesn't Work, Why Not Try a Placebo?

By John Horgan

GARRISON, New York — Over the past decade, psychiatrists and the news media have proclaimed the wonders of Prozac and the rest of a new generation of anti-depressant drugs, known collectively as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, or SSRIs.

Now a report from the United States Department of Health and Human Services has confirmed what has long been an open secret

Clinical trials are supposedly double blind. Neither the test subjects nor the researchers are told who is receiving the drug and who is receiving a placebo.

But because all psychiatric drugs have side effects — such as dry mouth, constipation and sexual dysfunction — both patients and researchers invariably see through the double blind, according to Mr. Greeberg. When patients realize they are taking the real drug, the placebo effect is especially strong; particularly if they have read books and magazine articles lauding the medication.

At least one prominent psychiatrist, Walter Brown of Brown University, has proposed that placebo pills be the initial treatment for patients with mild or moderate depression.

Physicians would tell patients, in effect, "These pills have no active ingredients, but studies show they help in many cases."

Mr. Brown cites evidence that patients will respond to placebo pills even after being told this. A more time-tested method for achieving relief was highlighted by a recent study at Duke University. Researchers examined 87 depressed, elderly patients, about half of whom were receiving psychotherapy, anti-depressants or a combination of the two. The best predictor of improvement was not these expensive remedies but the "religiosity" of the patient.

The psychiatrist Jerome Frank warned in his classic 1963 book, "Persuasion and Healing," that the placebo effect might be the primary factor underlying all psychiatric remedies.

The latest research supports Mr. Frank's finding: Psychiatrists, psychologists and other "scientific" healers are really exploiting the power of human belief, just as shamans and witch doctors do.

Mr. Horgan, author of "The End of Science," contributed this column to The New York Times.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and contain the writer's signature, name and full address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. We cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mixed Views on Kosovo

Our city has been bombed again. They tell us that this war is not against us, so we thought they would let us seed our fields. It seems they will be planted with bombs.

In the media, there has been a lot of talk about refugees lately. Not so long ago, our country was flooded with refugees.

They say that our army chases the Albanians from Kosovo, giving them 24 hours to leave their homes. Serbs in Croatia did not have any time. They were chased from their homes without warning.

We are not saying that people are not fleeing Kosovo. But there is a war there and bombs are falling every day. How did it not occur to anyone that they may be running away from NATO bombs and not from the Yugoslav army?

Stop the bombardment and let all be-

lievers celebrate Easter in peace. There will certainly be fewer refugees from Kosovo when there is no bombardment.

We are outraged with the way our people are presented in the media. You have never shown a living creature from Serbia who was not in uniform or accused of some crime against humanity.

Do you really believe that we are that evil? Do you really believe that while your children are preparing for the Easter festivities ours have to be in shelters just because they are guilty of being Serbs?

Please urge your governments to leave us to pray to God in the peace, maybe for the last time.

RAKIC ZLATA,
Novi Sad, Yugoslavia.

By ordering horrific war crimes against the people of Kosovo, Slobodan Milosevic has surely by now discarded any claim to the right to govern Kosovo.

Kosovo must be encouraged to declare its independence from Serbia with a promise of massive NATO military assistance in guarding its border.

If the guards are placed on the border quickly enough, perhaps some of the Serbian war criminals can be trapped inside Kosovo, before they have a chance to sink back into Serbia.

WILLIAM J. LARSON,
Nyon, Switzerland.

As an American, I am deeply disturbed by my president's flagrant violation of international law, and I worry for the future of global security. The United States has intervened to support one side in a very complex civil war where neither side is innocent — something that Abraham Lincoln would be astounded of.

By supporting the terrorist Kosovo Liberation Army, we are setting a precedent that terrorism will be rewarded if it is in the

U.S. national interest. This course of action removes any moral authority that the United States can claim to act as judge, jury and executioner for the world.

By bombing civilian targets, like hospitals, schools, monasteries and residences, we have merely exacerbated this conflict and forced Yugoslavs to rally behind Slobodan Milosevic.

MICHAEL PRAVICA,
Yonkers, New York.

A U.S. spokesman, in a televised interview, said that the United States had no intention of sending ground troops into a "hostile environment" to stop the genocide in Kosovo. Had General George Marshall followed such absurd advice in June 1944, we would have been spared the deaths of thousands of American soldiers on the Normandy beaches.

AARON STERNFIELD,
Morges, Switzerland.

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TribTech

High-Tech Sleuth on Trail of Melissa Virus's Creator

By John Markoff
New York Times Service

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Following the telltale digital fingerprints of the author of the rapidly spreading computer virus known as Melissa, a lone software detective has assembled a dossier suggesting that the virus writer has struck before and that the programmer's activities are already well known to computer-security specialists.

The investigator, Richard Smith, 45, is the president of Phar Lap Software, a small software development company in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Although Mr. Smith usually spends his time designing software tools and operating systems, during the weekend he used programmers' tools to peer inside the document that carries Melissa, which has spread wildly through the Internet.

Mr. Smith found indications that the virus is a work of a programmer — or possibly a small group — who wrote and distributed a similar program two years ago. Moreover, by searching the World Wide Web, he has found clues to the identity of the programmer and evidence that could lead the authorities to the computer on which the program was written.

On Monday, Mr. Smith turned that information over to the FBI. An FBI spokesman said, "We have a case that's open, and we're actively investigating the virus." Distributing a computer virus is a federal crime.

HOWEVER the virus writer, the work took its toll Monday. The Computer Emergency Response Team, a security service financed by the Pentagon at Carnegie Mellon University, reported calls from 250 organizations indicating that the virus had affected at least 100,000 workplace computers.

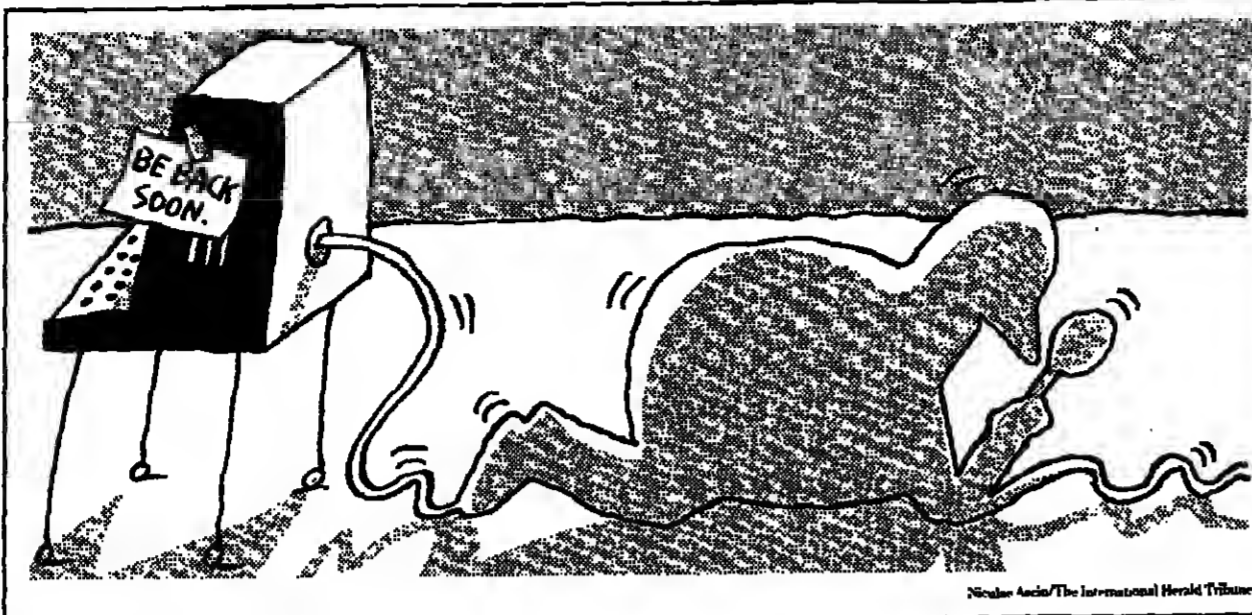
"We believe the number is probably higher than that," said Jeff Carpenter, a team leader for the group, but because of precautions taken by companies during the weekend, "we do think the problem has not been as bad today as we feared it might be."

The virus, which began to cause havoc Friday, is like a chain letter spread in an e-mail attachment listing several pornographic sites. When recipients open the attachment, it tries to mail itself to 50 other e-mail addresses stored in the user's computer, propagating itself each time with the subject line "Important Message From" followed by the name of the previous victim.

Steve White, senior manager of anti-virus research at the IBM Watson Research Center in Hawthorne, New York, said, "Melissa" has spread more widely and rapidly than any PC virus in history," but said it was too soon to tell the extent of damage because computer security professionals still are in "the fog of battle."

The high-tech sleuthing by Mr. Smith is remarkable in part because he was the one who earlier in March raised questions about the propriety of a little-known Microsoft feature that embeds unique hardware numbers in every Microsoft Office document file.

Microsoft designed the numbering scheme to help track software objects and



documents in a computer network. The company said it would change the feature after Mr. Smith revealed that the company was compiling the numbers of its users' computers in a database.

On Friday, however, Mr. Smith found a new use for the numbering scheme. It meant that the Melissa file carried a unique fingerprint corresponding to the personal computer on which it was created. And because the Microsoft Word program is designed to embed information in each document about each user who has written or revised it, the file also had what amounted to an author list.

On Friday evening, Mr. Smith collected that information and posted it to an Internet news group that discusses software viruses. Later that evening he received a response from a Swedish computer science graduate student who said the virus writer's activities appeared to be similar to those of a known virus author who had identified himself as "VicodinES" in computer network postings.

"He told me the Melissa virus looked very similar," Mr. Smith said. "He had noticed a similar software coding style."

The graduate student also pointed Mr. Smith to a Web site that was maintained by VicodinES.

"I started looking for files which contained the same Ethernet address," the number that provides the digital fingerprint, Mr. Smith said. "Then we could assume the same computer and maybe the same person was the author of Melissa."

On Sunday he succeeded. In addition, he downloaded files from the Web site that had been revised under the names of

"It's pretty clear that VicodinES is somehow related to all this," Mr. Smith said. "Whether he's the author I don't know, but he has his fingerprints everywhere." He said he also found what appeared to be actual names buried in several documents.

As inconvenient as Melissa is, Mr. Smith told The Associated Press that the real danger was that the author was putting out kits on-line that other people could download to create their own viruses.

FREDERIK Björck, a doctoral student at Stockholm University who was also contacted Monday by the FBI, said that he and Mr. Smith had shared some information but had essentially reached the same conclusion independently: that Melissa could be traced to a virus writer using the name VicodinES.

"VicodinES is definitely a talent," Mr. Björck said. "He's the brains behind this."

He said his investigation had led him to believe that the virus might have been written with help from others.

The Internet host of the VicodinES Web page is SourceKaos, a loose organization of Web sites that its creator says is dedicated to freedom of speech. The creator, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said SourceKaos was the free host of the Web sites of people with unpopular views, with most of the sites related to virus collection, detection and creation.

The creator of SourceKaos, based in Orlando, Florida, said that he had never met VicodinES but that they had corresponded last year on the Internet.

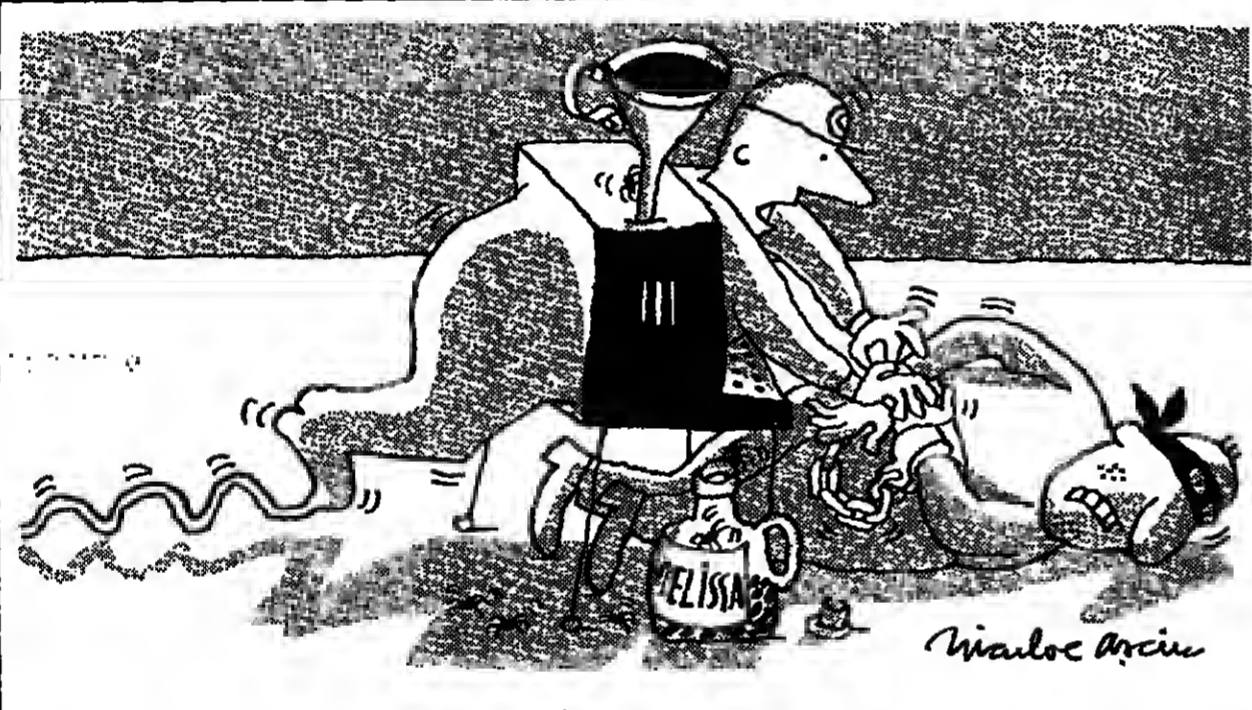
He said he recalled VicodinES as being of "high schoolish" age but added that VicodinES had a reputation as a talented virus writer.

The VicodinES home page touts the accomplishments of the "noted virus researcher VicodinES," including the creation of two viruses intended for Microsoft products. One virus that VicodinES claims to have created infects Excel 97, and a second is designed to infect Office 2000.

■ Another Virus Found

Compounding the effects of Melissa, a similar virus called Papa was discovered Monday, The Associated Press reported from New York.

Papa sends out even more infected e-mail messages than Melissa, though it has a bug that sometimes prevents it from working, said Srivats Sampath, of McAfee Associates Inc., a maker of widely used anti-virus software.



With SET Printers, Xerox Shifts Copying Into High Gear

By Claudia H. Deutsch
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Shuffle the deck again and deal out the logo cards. The list of who is battling whom in the printer-copier market just changed one more time.

Barely two weeks ago, Eastman Kodak Co. introduced the first digital copier fast enough to compete with Xerox Corp.'s most sophisticated products. Kodak then promptly sold its entire copier business to Heidelberg Druckmaschinen AG, the big German offset printing company that thus became the latest entrant to the copier wars.

And Sunday night, Xerox announced that it was buying SET Electronics, a French company that makes continuous-feed printers that can whip out 500 pages a minute.

More significant, SET's printers have a "controller" technology that enables them — unlike Xerox's printers — to accept data compatible with printers made by International Business Machines Corp. and Océ-Van Der Grinten NV.

With SET, Xerox for the first time could take on those two giants in the market for printers that accept data from desktop com-

puters and can print 300 to 1,000 business-size sheets a minute. Between them, IBM and Océ now control 90 percent of this market, which serves banks, utility companies and other big generators of transactional data such as bills and monthly statements.

"IBM and Océ competed with us in printers that use cut sheets, and now we can compete with them, and with offset printers, in continuous feed," said Pierre Daron, president of Xerox Europe.

Xerox's Delphax subsidiary already sells a continuous-feed printer that runs 900 to 1,300 sheets a minute. But it can only accept data from mainframes, not desktops.

"With this acquisition, Xerox can finally compete for the high-end billing market," said Barbara Fellow, a director at CAP Ventures, a research firm in Norwell, Massachusetts.

Industry researchers estimate that the annual market for printers that produce more than 80 pages a minute now tops \$2 billion

and is growing rapidly. Xerox will not say what it paid for SET. But the privately held company may hold strategic value far exceeding its less than \$50 million a year in annual revenue.

"We'll be selling four times that amount in less than two years," said Anshoo Gupta, president of Xerox's Production Systems Group.

SET's power lies in its controller technology, which helps Xerox in two ways. First, it will enable the company to offer IBM and Océ customers a rival product that they can just plug in, without reprogramming anything.

And perhaps more important, Xerox will no longer have to watch helplessly as its own customers switch over to Océ or IBM for their continuous-feed machines.

"This move is as much about preventing the loss of customers as it is about taking someone else's customers away," said Julianne Mahagan, a consultant at Lyra Research, a market analysis firm in Newton, Massachusetts.

While banks and other issuers of transactional data are the prime users of con-

tinuous-feed printers, Xerox says it also plans to go after small-run book publishing and other uses as well — applications that might eventually turn the company into a competitor to Heidelberg's offset printing operations. Industry experts say that is a pipe dream for now, because few continuous-feed printers, and certainly not the SET versions, provide the print resolution those applications would need.

Still, Xerox may be getting closer. Xerox's Delphax unit is working on getting its print resolution up to the 600 dots an inch considered the minimum for book publishing, and Delphax plans in September to offer a machine that can take data from desktop computers.

"This isn't a knock-your-socks-off acquisition from day one, but it fills out Xerox's product line and gives it an important relationship with Hitachi," said Jay Ingalls, research director at Garner Group, a research firm in Stamford, Connecticut.

XEROX

ALT / Commentary

Customers Desert To Digital Market

'Byte Flight' Will Alter Business

By John Ellis
The Boston Globe

BOSTON — Shortly after World War II ended, something profound happened to America's cities. Their best customers started moving to the suburbs. This trend gathered momentum during the Eisenhower era. By the end of the 1960s, it had transformed the demography of the United States.

Suddenly, suburbs had the best-educated residents, cities the least-educated. Younger, richer, healthier people became suburbanites; older, poorer, more infirm people remained in town. Cities across the United States nearly collapsed as a result. Some, such as Detroit and Washington, have never really recovered.

Something very much like this is happening in business today. Best customers are going digital. Although their numbers are not yet overwhelming — they are between a sixth and a quarter of the total population of the United States — the impact of their departure is enormous.

Best customers control a disproportionate share of U.S. financial assets and thus a disproportionate percentage of its disposable income.

They are younger, better educated, and more technologically savvy.

For countless businesses, best customers represent the difference between success and failure. And they are leaving by the tens of thousands, every week, for greener digital pastures.

Think about the impact of their departure and the wealth they have already created in the digital world. Ten years ago, Dell Computer Corp. did not exist.

Today, it is the leading personal computer company in the world. In two or three years, Dell will conduct 50 percent of its business on the World Wide Web. By the end of the next decade, Dell hopes to conduct all of its business on the Web.

Seven years ago, Yahoo! Inc. did not exist. Now, as many as 45 million individuals pass through its site in a week. That is 44 million more people than read The New York Times on Sunday. Six years ago, Amazon.com Inc. did not exist. Today, it has a market capitalization roughly four times the combined market capitalization of Barnes & Noble Inc. and Borders Group Inc., the two largest bookstores in America.

Five years ago, Charles Schwab & Co. was considered a "discount" brokerage house.

Today, it is the leading digital brokerage service in the country.

Its competitors are scrambling to catch up. Last Thursday night, Merrill Lynch & Co. initiated its own on-line brokerage service. As Joseph Kahn reported in The New York Times, "Merrill's main task is not to lure low-end customers away from on-line brokerage firms, but to keep its own 8 million clients, and their \$1.4 trillion in assets, on board."

Best customers are leaving the world of atoms and joining the world of bits.

They are going there for groceries, entertainment and travel.

They are going there for financial services, credit cards, and long-distance phone service. They are going there for health care, education, and every conceivable kind of information. In the near future, they will not go anywhere that does not offer its services on the Web.

Their behavior will change every business in its path, which is virtually every business. Among the businesses that will be transformed is real estate. What is the value of real estate? Traditionally, it has been all about location, location, location.

Best customers add a new and perhaps more important value to the location trio: speed of Internet access.

This is good news for towns that are served by cable modem Internet access that is 10 times faster than "normal" access. This is bad news for towns that do not offer cable modem access.

Best customer behavior will change the business of health care.

Anderson Consulting recently said that the only part of the health care business of the future that would look anything like the health care business of today is acute care. If you have to undergo open-heart surgery, you will still have to go to a major hospital.

The Web will transform every other aspect of the health care system. In the near future, basic readings can and will be taken over the Internet.

Referrals will be done over the Internet. Medications will be adjusted on-line. Amazon.com will be your drug store. Instead of you going to it, it will come to you.

Consider education. There is no conceivable reason that every college student in the country cannot take David Donald's history course at Harvard University.

His lectures can be digitized.

Reading materials can be made available over the Web. Papers can be assigned and exams can be taken on-line.

Instead of you going to Harvard, Harvard will come to you.

This will happen because best customers want it to happen.

Businesses that do not pay attention to this demand will inevitably go out of business.

Businesses that meet the demand will get rich.

If you have any doubts about this, just ask the mayors of Washington and Detroit.

They are still dealing with the consequences of ignoring best customers.

| TECHNOLOGY INDEX | | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Technology stock indexes around the world: | | | | |
| North America | Tuesday close | Pct. change previous week | Pct. change year to date | |
| Pacific Exchange Tech | 498.19 | +6.2% | +10.90 | |
| S&P Tech Composite | 1,319.05 | +3.2% | +12.91 | |
| Europe | | | | |
| Morgan Stanley Eurotec | 631.21 | +2.6% | +3.39 | |
| Asia | | | | |
| Topix Electric | 1,881.06 | +1.1% | +21.95 | |
| Source: Morgan Stanley, Bloomberg News | | | | |
| For technology articles from the past week, see TribTech on the IHT's World Wide Web site at http://www.ihnt.com . Articles include: | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C&W and MediaOne Ponder a Sale or IPO for Venture, March 25 • Only On-Line: Retailers Soom Profile, March 25 • In 2001, I'll See You on the Phone, March 25 • Microsoft Expands Its On-Line Reach, March 25 • Erickson Settles Wireless Dispute With Qualcomm, March 26 • Microsoft Offer to U.S. Gets a Chilly Response, March 26 • Court Battle Fails to Weigh Down Microsoft's Soaring Stock Price, March 26 • Computer Associates Plans to Buy Rival, March 26 • As Scientists Move On, Dolly Finds New Sardon, March 30 • Telecom Italia Shifts to Cash Offer, March 26 | | | | |
| To reach TribTech editors or to comment on IHT tech coverage, send e-mail to tribtech@ihnt.com . International Herald Tribune | | | | |

BRIEFLY

ALWAYS IN TOUCH: A new program for the ICQ instant message system means users can run but they cannot hide. The Signaler, from the Israeli company NECS, works by sending something like an electronic knock on the door to a designated computer's modem. Even if the recipient is not on-line, a window will open on the screen, signaling that someone is trying to get in touch.

To send and receive signals, users must have the Signaler software, which can be downloaded at their Web site: www.signaler.com. Users can choose a do-not-disturb mode when they would rather not be bothered. NECS is offering the service free for a 21-day trial. After that, it costs \$9.95 a year. The company is developing the software for use with other programs, such as Yahoo Pager and AOL Instant Messenger. (NYT)

GETTING THE CHINESE ON-LINE: Lawrence Cheung wants to bring the Internet into Chinese living rooms. But first, he has to give the Chinese people a reason and a way to log on.

Most Web sites are in English, a language that most Chinese don't speak. And few homes in China have computers. Mr. Cheung's answer is Shanghai WebTV, a company that is creating Chinese Web sites for Internet novices to surf using a TV, a joystick and a button.

"A lot of people want to get on the Net, but they say, 'I can't use a computer; I can't read English.' I want to bridge that gap," said Mr. Cheung, 31, who left the Hong Kong branch of the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency to start Shanghai WebTV with two partners.

Mr. Cheung's firm is one of many companies — small startups and established giants such as Microsoft Corp. — that are trying to eliminate technical, language and political barriers and grab a share of the Internet market in China.

That market is expected to boom in the coming years. Chinese leaders are encouraging Internet use as a tool for building the high-tech industry. Internet cafes, where customers can buy time on a terminal, are common in major cities. State-owned China Telecom cut its ac-

cess rates in half recently to try to encourage use and spur innovation.

There are obstacles to be overcome. The Communist government remains wary of the potential for the Internet to spread dissent and wants to protect its infant information industry from foreign competitors.

Still, China's population of Internet users grew fourfold last year, to 2.1 million. A further 1.5 million are expected to sign up this year.

A TV-based system has obvious appeal in China. The 9,000 yuan (\$1,100) price of a basic PC is well above the national average income of 6,500 yuan a year. By contrast, Shanghai WebTV says its receivers could cost as little as 1,500 yuan. (AP)

WEAR PROTECTION ON YOUR SLEEVE: Disposable synthetic clothing designed to protect the skin from hazardous chemicals is no one's idea of casual wear. The same qualities that keep harmful compounds away from the body can keep heat and moisture in, making such garments uncomfortable at best.

Now, researchers at the University of California at Davis have developed a process that could make protective clothing as comfortable as an old pair of blue jeans. In fact, with their process, protective clothing might even be an old pair of blue jeans.

The research, reported at a meeting last week of the American Chemical Society, is intended to protect farm workers from the pesticides they encounter in the field. Rather than trying to block the chemicals, the goal is to destroy them by incorporating into the surface of ordinary cotton-polyester fabric a compound that breaks down the harmful chemicals on contact. By wearing clothes made from the treated fabric, a farm worker would become a walking detoxification plant, neutralizing a pesticide before it reached the skin.

The compound used, called a hydantoin, needs to be activated by the addition of a chlorine atom. And that leads to another advantage of the process: Simply wash the clothes in bleach, and their pesticide-destroying capabilities are renewed. (NYT)

moC

Whose
technologies are
behind the dot?

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Because while ".com" is behind just about every company name on the planet, not everyone knows who's behind ".com."

At Sun, we've been thinking about (and designing around) the very idea of the Net since 1982. A radical approach that not only gave us a head start—it gave us our entire focus.

Everything we make and do is about the Net. The whole Net. And nothing but the Net.

From our Net-based servers (the Herculean engines behind the Net) to our Solaris™ software (the robust foundation for the Net) to our Java™ technologies (the universal link for the Net).

And soon, our newest technologies will push the Net out to every kind of hand-held gizmo and appliance imaginable. (As well as to a few that aren't yet.)

Wherever .com heads next, we'll be right behind the dot. Powering it along. Changing the way we work, live and play.

Stop back here and see us again soon.

We're the dot in .com.™



Turning Points / 'We Never Dreamed This Could Happen to Us'

At a Bombed-Out Factory in Serbia, Workers Deny Making Weapons

By Steven Erlanger
New York Times Service

CACAK, Serbia — In the first guided tour conducted by the Yugoslav Army since it issued wartime press passes on Tuesday, journalists were shown significant bomb damage Wednesday in two central Serbian towns, roughly 100 kilometers south of Belgrade.

The large Sloboda, or Freedom, factory in Cacak was destroyed in two NATO raids of some 10 missiles each over two different nights, Sunday and Tuesday, local and army officials said, with a total of 10 civilians wounded.

The officials, including the angry general manager of the factory, Radovan Ljubic, said that the factory produced only civilian products, such as vacuum cleaners, ovens and electrical heaters, and had no military purpose at all. He estimated it would cost \$300 million to replace the factory, the largest in Cacak.

Mr. Ljubic accused NATO of a callous disregard for the livelihood of his 5,000 workers and their 15,000 dependents. "How will they live now?" he asked. "All the stories that we were producing military equipment are false."

Vesna Hadzi-Vukovic, a former journalist who joined the army press center in Belgrade three days ago, said, "If a vacuum cleaner or a hair dryer can kill, then maybe this is a military factory."

Journalists had no way to judge these assertions. Around and inside the shattered buildings were "Sloboda" brand vacuum cleaners in various states of destruction from the missile damage, as well as spare parts, printed brochures, smashed ovens, heaters, hair dryers and other domestic appliances. There was little sign of fire damage.

But there were also two large buildings of the factory that were roped off by policemen and printed police tape. Plainclothes press officers said the buildings were too dangerous to enter because of the bomb damage. Policemen also continually demanded that journalists stop interviewing the few factory workers who were milling around the ruins in their royal line overalls.

But those workers who were interviewed anyway mostly expressed their fury and sadness at the loss of their livelihood and attested patriotic sentiments that seemed wholly genuine.

Mihajlo Draskovic, one of the workers, had red eyes and burst into tears when asked to discuss the factory. "How will my family live now when everything is destroyed?" He has two children, he said, and had worked for the factory for 25 years, making a salary equal to \$47 to \$59 a month. "Why did they do this?" he asked, before striding away.

Milan Djordjevic said he had worked for the factory for 30 years as a mechanic making engine rotors. "This whole assembly line was Western equipment we paid for," he said, pointing to a broken machine-tool. "Now the West destroys our factory. You know, we're just workers and honest people."

Earlier, the army brought the journalists, filling three buses, to Kragujevac, where a large military barracks and other military buildings had been destroyed in the first night of the missile and bomb strikes.

The tin roofs of the buildings had caved in, and girders poked through the rubble of an air force facility. Craters measured 20 meters (about 20 yards) across and about 5 meters deep.

But army officials and spokesmen said that there had been no casualties at all from the strike.

A farmer nearby said he had lost several chickens in the blasts, but that his goat had survived.

The town is famous in Serbia as the site of a horrendous Nazi execution of 7,000 civilians, including several hundred schoolchildren, in retaliation for the killing of Nazi soldiers. In a nearby park, there was a large anti-NATO rally under a large stone memorial to the dead in the shape of a Roman number V, to commemorate the students of the Fifth Class who were murdered by the Nazis.

The gathering usually takes place in October, but it was moved up to Wednesday because of the NATO bombings, and perhaps because of the visit of the journalists.

But at least 5,000 people came, with banners and signs, to listen to music, speeches and some angry poetry, and they applauded a release of doves.

Three teenagers in punk dress, with pierced ears and ice-blue gel in their hair, said the bombings had made them feel very patriotic.

"It's horrible what NATO is doing to the people in Serbia," said, Ivica Cvetkovic, 17. "We never dreamed this could happen to us. We want to have peace and now we're in a big catastrophe."

Who is to blame? "We blame NATO and the Albanian terrorists," said his friend, Jovan Skrbic, also 17.

Does the Serbian government bear any responsibility? Mr. Cvetkovic thought and said: "Yes, but Serbia bears a very small percentage of the responsibility."

Asked what they would do if drafted, Mr. Skrbic said: "If called to the army, of course we will go."

Tanya Petrovic, 16, said, "Even we girls will go there." Three of her male friends had already been called up to the army, she said. "One was in the barracks in Prokuplje and it was bombed, but he told his parents he's O.K.," she said.

With the schools and movie theaters closed, life is very boring now, they agreed. "It's boring with a big psychological pressure," Miss Petrovic said.

"Our parents don't let us out," she said, "and they make us spend all night and sometimes the day in the shelters."

She wore a silver dogtag on a chain around her neck. "It used to be popular, but now it's popular again," she said. "It's a kind of war fashion."

Serbs' Defiant Stance
Puzzles Allied LeadersBy Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

BRUSSELS — Increasingly dejected by the inability of their dazzling weapons to bring President Slobodan Milosevic to heel and stop the "ethnic cleansing" of Kosovo, NATO leaders are wondering: What next?

The Serb who heads the Federation of Yugoslavia — meaning just Serbia and Montenegro — has been politically impervious to a week-long battering by cruise missiles, smart bombs, radar-evading planes, high-tech bombers and other state-of-the-art weaponry.

An armed invasion has been, in effect, ruled out, NATO officials said. And the existing strategy has only one option left — bombing the Yugoslav president's nerve centers in the heart of Belgrade, with all the risks that carries of causing civilian casualties.

The alternative, alliance top civilian official say, would be to acknowledge that the basic premise behind the bombing strategy, that a sufficient show of air power would batter Mr. Milosevic and his supporters into accepting Western prescriptions for Kosovo, was fatally flawed.

And that, in turn, would mean admitting that the world's most powerful air forces at its disposal, was helpless to curb the authoritarian leader of a small Balkan country from killing and victimizing his people.

"We may not have the means to stop it, but we have shown we have the will to try," the NATO secretary-general, Javier Solana, said in an interview Tuesday.

For the first time, other allied officials here began talking privately about the possibility that the bombing strategy might not work.

That was not the view of General Wesley Clark, the alliance commander, although he acknowledged that Mr. Milosevic had proved to be a pushover.

"We're up against an intelligent and capable adversary who is attempting to offset all our strategies," General Clark

said. "There are risks and no certainties in this."

The only certainty, the general said, was that the Serbian police and military forces would continue to be "attacked, degraded, and disrupted" by the bombing unless Mr. Milosevic called off the attacks.

Despite the failure of this strategy so far to check the Serbs, General Clark maintained a resolute stance. "The political consensus is building, political will is building, and resolution is strengthening."

NATO's rejection Tuesday of an offer from Belgrade, which allied governments viewed as a mere ploy, left NATO where it had been for the past week — hoping that punishing attacks from the air would persuade Mr. Milosevic that he had no choice but to accept allied terms.

But if that did not work, as Mr. Solana explained in the interview, there was little NATO could do except say that at least it had tried. It was too late, Mr. Solana said, for NATO to send in ground troops to fight the marauding Serbs.

"We have not prepared for a force on the ground," he said, except after a peace settlement agreed to by the Serbs. Planning for a combat operation to fight their way in, he said, would take time that the allies could not afford if they hoped to spare further agony to the civilians of Kosovo.

The only way that U.S. and European troops would be prepared to enter Kosovo, the allies all agree, is as part of an allied peacekeeping force, with the consent of both the Albanians who live in Kosovo and the Serbs who rule over it. But Mr. Milosevic has refused even to discuss peacekeepers.

Now, Mr. Solana said, "All our energy should be concentrated now on stopping the killing and helping the refugees."

Asked how long the stalemate might continue, Mr. Solana said he was sure the bombing would be over before the April 23 start of a meeting in Washington to celebrate NATO's 50th anniversary.

"This is not a problem that was created in 24 hours," he said, "and it will not be solved in 24 hours."

ATTACK: Cloudy Skies Hold Pilots Back

Continued from Page 1

the air campaign behind schedule, even as Yugoslav troops have stepped up their campaign against ethnic Albanians.

Military officials conceded that the air war has failed to curb the killings.

"I think right now, it is difficult to say that we have prevented one act of brutality at this stage," said a Pentagon spokesman, Kenneth Bacon.

The climate has compelled NATO to rely more heavily on missiles launched from sea and air, as well as bombs dropped from B-2s, all of which satellites can guide to fixed targets.

Key Negotiator
Is Reported Alive

Reuters

BRUSSELS — Two Kosovo Albanian leaders reported to have been summarily executed by Serbs are in fact alive, U.S. diplomatic and Kosovo Albanian sources said Wednesday.

Fehmi Agani, a veteran politician who played a key role in the Rambouillet peace talks, and Baton Haxhiu, the Koha Ditore newspaper editor-in-chief who voiced the aspirations of his people, have not been executed as reported by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on Monday, the sources said.

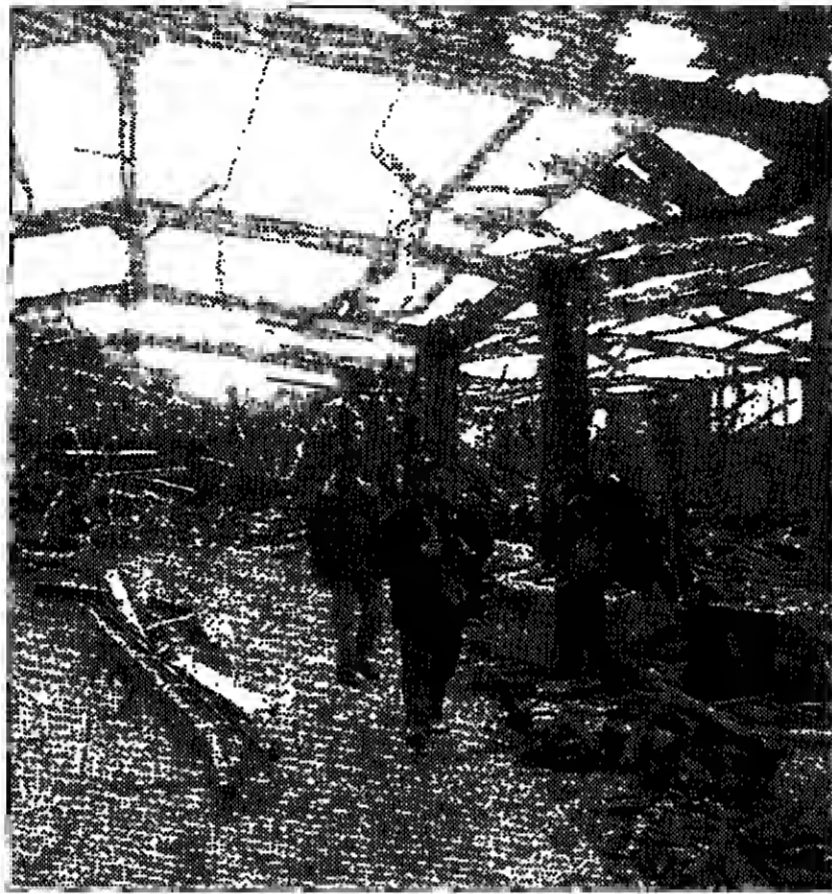
"Yes, we believe they are alive," a U.S. source said.

A Kosovo Albanian source agreed, saying: "We are sure of it. We have it from various sources."

He said the two men were still in Kosovo, so they could not be described as being safe, given the wave of intimidation and ethnic cleansing now under way.

Air Commodore David Wilby, NATO military spokesman, cited what he called "reliable sources," said Monday that the two were among five prominent Kosovo Albanian men who had been executed on Sunday.

Belgrade said at the time that there was no evidence to back up the report.



Photographers walking through a factory destroyed by the air strikes in Cacak, Yugoslavia. Workers denied the factory made military equipment.

NATO: Increasing Repression in Kosovo Leads to Intensification of Western Attacks

Continued from Page 1

olence at a pivotal juncture.

Late Tuesday, alliance political leaders authorized military officers to expand the air attacks, but the immediate effect it might have was far from clear.

The New York Times, quoting two senior unnamed American officials, reported that NATO had agreed to an escalated bombing campaign targeting government buildings in central Belgrade, in an acknowledgment that air strikes, which entered their eighth day Wednesday, had failed to halt the assault in Kosovo or sufficiently damage the Serbian military.

These attacks, the report said, would probably include government centers like the Interior Ministry and Defense Ministry buildings as well as military

targets elsewhere in the country, a major change in tactics.

It was unclear whether even with the precision weaponry available, the alliance forces would be able to strike such targets in a crowded city without serious risk of civilian casualties.

Participants in the NATO discussion told the International Herald Tribune late Tuesday that, although military targeting had been expanded, the consensus view was that targets such as the power grid and television broadcast towers should continue to be excluded.

NATO military leaders had sought permission to strike these installations, arguing that they were being employed by the Serbian military. "The tempo is heating up," General Sir Charles Guthrie, chief of the British defense staff, said at a news conference in London.

NATO officials say it is already too late for ground troops to move into Kosovo, and they reiterated on Wednesday that many more days of high-risk attacks may be needed to quell an adversary that has matched NATO's intense air effort by an equally furious campaign in the towns and villages of Kosovo to eject large portions of its ethnic Albanian population.

The White House spokesman and the NATO commander, General Wesley Clark, separately reaffirmed the plan to hit Serbian targets systematically.

The British defense secretary, George Robertson, said Serbian tanks and troops would be targeted. "We know where they have dispersed to and we know where they are hiding," he said.

In Moscow, Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said that Russia had "reliable

information" that the United States was considering a plan to let Kosovo break from Yugoslavia or to divide the area.

This appeared to track reports from Washington that, in the U.S. view, the Serbs had forfeited rights to Kosovo.

Mr. Clinton had hinted at this on Tuesday, saying that as the offensive against ethnic Albanians continued, Mr. Milosevic would see "the prospect of international support for Serbia's claim to Kosovo increasingly jeopardized."

There was little or no independent confirmation of either Serbian or NATO military actions inside Kosovo, and to a large extent the escalation of the conflict was embodied in less-than-detailed military briefings and increasingly harsh public statements.

At a briefing in Brussels, Air Commodore David Wilby of Britain, NATO's military spokesman, said that "a large number of refugees" and some Kosovo rebels had been shelled with tanks and artillery in Kosovo's Pagarusa Valley both Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mr. Rubin, the State Department spokesman, said that in the district, as many as 50,000 to 75,000 people were being shelled or otherwise attacked by Serbian forces.

The conflict took an unusual electronic turn Wednesday as NATO said that its Internet Web site, a important source of information on the war in Yugoslavia, had been hit by a "cyber attack" from hacker-type experts in Belgrade.

Officials said hackers were inundating its site with computer viruses and firing off thousands of e-mail messages each day, overloading the site.

Early Wednesday, U.S. officials took possession of the Yugoslav Embassy and the ambassador's residence in Washington, ordering diplomats to leave the country immediately.

A State Department official described the operation as routine. Joseph Fitchett of the IHT contributed to this report.



HEATED DEBATE — Lawmakers in Russia's State Duma restrain Vasili Shandybin, second from left, and Sergei Yushenkov in a scuffle on Wednesday over a peace mission to Belgrade by a group of Russian liberals.

REFUGEES: Bringing Stories of Horror, Thousands Flood Into Albania From Kosovo

Continued from Page 1

Kosovar refugees.

At another time, this would be a glorious place. The surrounding mountains rise like cliff faces, and atop them the winter snow is melting. The border pass itself is a green and brown expanse cut by the blue-gray Drin River. Goats scale the low rises, and peasants, some in traditional dress, lead donkeys with bundles of firewood stacked on their backs.

But a trail of human misery is being routed into this far reach of northern Albania. In interviews here over recent days, dozens of refugees have described expulsions of tens of thousands of ethnic Albanians from their homes and farms in southern Kosovo by Yugoslav and Serbian security forces, a forced migration that appears to be punctuated by atrocities.

Yugoslav officials shut this border crossing at 1 A.M. Tuesday after 70,000 people had converged on it in the previous two days. But it was reopened 12

hours later, and a procession of several hundred refugees moved through on tractors and farm carts.

Albanian officials have tried desperately to count the refugees crossing here and to note the village of origin of each of them. As they passed under the Albanian flag, many refugees, men and women alike, burst into tears, overcome by relief that the worst of their ordeal was over.

In the near distance, Serbian flags billowed over the border post. Farther back in the surrounding fields, Yugoslav troops moved around newly dug trenches. And on either side of the river, a Yugoslav look-out post and Albanian artillery batteries faced off.

The refugees were quickly moved to the nearby city of Kukes, where the Albanian government, despite the country's poverty, has organized a massive effort to disperse refugees to shelter around the country. Kukes, which was chaotic with huge crowds and random gunfire Monday, was much calmer Tuesday.

Still, at the edge of the city, six uniformed members of the Kosovo Liberation Army, which has fought a year-long insurgency to gain Kosovo's independence from Serbia, were stopping refugee-laden tractors and asking young men aboard to return with them to the province to fight.

The guerrillas, many of whom appeared bewildered and frantic, refused to talk to reporters and accused some of being spies. No young men among the incoming refugees chose to join them.

After he found the bodies of his father and neighbors, Mr. Kabashi, who had worked as a bus conductor, said he fled to a river bank where he and others spent the night. They then trekked to the mountains south of Prizren. On Monday morning about 300 refugees came down to the village of Kajak where they found tractors to take them to Albania.

Mr. Kabashi said they encountered no problems with security forces on their way to Albania. And other refugees, such as Sadik Berisha, from the village of Lipovec, near the town of Djakovica,

said that although Yugoslav soldiers said they would burn them in their homes unless they left for Albania, there was no violence once the ethnic Albanians had complied.

The experience of the refugees differed depending on which side of the Yugoslav army or Serbian paramilitary police they had to deal with.

Some refugees reported that many Serbian civilians in Kosovo harbored themselves and are acting as local militia. Latif Krasniqi, 35, said that in the village of Leshan, local Serbs set some homes of their former neighbors on fire as security forces rounded up ethnic Albanians for expulsion.

He said one man he knew from the area, but only by his first name, Ibra, forced an elderly ethnic Albanian woman into a burning house. A group of ethnic Albanian men watched helplessly as the house was consumed by flames. "The woman spoke no words, no screams," Mr. Krasniqi said. "He got pleasure when he took that old woman away."

WE LOVE TECHNOLOGY. It's new and it's shiny and it inspires a certain awe, like the Great Pyramid of Cheops or a tiny new human being. Technology is good at the heavy lifting. People are good at the heavy thinking. Bits and bytes and ones and zeroes fly around the planet, but only at our discretion. The computer has a role model, and it is us. Computers are plastic and metal and sand. People are brilliance and discernment and vision. Admire machines. Worship their inventors.

HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT

**Merrill Lynch**

Turning Points / 'We Never Dreamed This Could Happen to Us'

At a Bombed-Out Factory in Serbia, Workers Deny Making Weapons

By Steven Erlanger
New York Times Service

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The gathering usually takes place in October, but it was moved up to Wednesday because of the NATO bombings, and perhaps because of the visit of the journalists.

But at least 5,000 people came, with banners and signs, to listen to music, speeches and some angry poetry, and they applauded a release of doves.

Three teenagers in punk dress, with pierced ears and ice-blue gel in their hair, said the bombings had made them feel very patriotic.

"It's horrible what NATO is doing to the people in Serbia," said Ivica Cvetkovic, 17. "We never dreamed this could happen to us. We want to have peace and now we're in a big

catastrophe."

Who is to blame? "We blame NATO and the Albanian terrorists," said his friend, Jovan Skrbic, also 17.

Does the Serbian government bear any responsibility? Mr. Cvetkovic hopped and said: "Yes, but Serbia bears a very small percentage of the responsibility."

Asked what they would do if drafted, Mr. Skrbic said: "If called to the army of course we will go."

Tanya Petrovic, 16, said, "We've girls will go there."

Three of her male friends had already been called up to the army, she said. "One was in the barracks in Prokuplje and was bombed, but he told his parents he's O.K.," she said.

With the schools and many factories closed, life is very boring now, they agreed. "It's boring with a big psychological pressure," Miss Petrovic said.

"Our parents don't let us out," she said, "and they make us spend all night sometimes the day in the shelters."

She wore a silver dogtag on a chain around her neck. "It used to be popular, but it's popular again," she said. "It's a kind of fashion."

UN Indicts Serbian Paramilitary Leader

The Associated Press

THE HAGUE — The Yugoslav war crimes tribunal said Wednesday it had indicted a notorious Serbian paramilitary leader for Bosnian War-era atrocities, an announcement aimed at stopping him from deploying units to Kosovo.

Zeljko Raznatovic, also known as Arkan, was indicted in September 1997, but the indictment was not announced so as not to impede his arrest, said Louise Arbour, the UN court's chief prosecutor. She refused to disclose the exact charges.

The publication of Arkan's indictment was aimed at dissuading him from deploying his "Tigers" paramilitary unit in the escalating conflict in Kosovo, where Serbs are trying to drive out ethnic Albanians.

"In light of recent reports of his alleged involvement in Kosovo," Ms. Arbour said, "I have decided to make public the existence of an indictment against Zeljko Raznatovic, also known as Arkan."

Publicizing the indictment will "put on notice those who might be inclined to retain his services or to obey his orders that they, too, will be tainted by his association with an indicted war criminal," she said.

Warrants for Mr. Raznatovic's arrest will be sent to the Yugoslav Embassy, she said, though Yugoslavia has refused to arrest suspects indicted by the tribunal.

Arkan has insisted that neither he nor his Tigers have fought in the Kosovo conflict, which erupted a year ago.

Arkan himself was seen in Belgrade on Monday attending a rock concert held in defiance of NATO air strikes.

Arkan's Tigers have been accused of involvement in atrocities committed during the wars in Bosnia and Croatia in the early 1990s, and human rights groups have long called for his indictment.

Croatian authorities are seeking his arrest on genocide charges.

Ms. Arbour said she would not reveal

the nature of the charges against Arkan until he was arrested.

Arkan is the 59th suspect to be publicly indicted by the UN court, which has 26 suspects in custody in The Hague.

Ms. Arbour also urged Western governments to hand over evidence of atrocities in Kosovo and said her investigations were "progressing through means I am not prepared to make public."

She said she took seriously recent U.S., British and NATO offers to turn over evidence of atrocities, including the names of those responsible.

"I welcome these statements and I take these assurances seriously," Ms. Arbour said. "I expect to be provided with this information on a continuous basis, not only from these sources but from all governments, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations and private individuals who are committed to peace and justice and the dispassionate pursuit of truth."

STRATEGY:
Strains for NATO

Continued from Page 1

attacks in Parliament on its pro-NATO policy, the Vatican said that it would make a peace initiative directly aimed at Mr. Milosevic, Reuters reported.

Mr. Milosevic has been extremely adroit at exploiting differences among NATO's 19 member states. But senior NATO officials believe he has committed two crucial mistakes: the forced exodus of ethnic Albanians that has appalled the outside world and the intrusion by two MiG fighters into Bosnian air space that betrayed aggressive intentions against his neighbors.

With more than 600,000 Kosovars uprooted and many fleeing for their lives, NATO officials say the atrocities have consolidated support for bombing.

The German government said Wednesday there are credible reports that Serb forces have organized three large concentration camps to hold many of the male prisoners that were separated from families during the forced expulsions. An estimated 100,000 are now incarcerated in the Pristina stadium, according to Defense Minister Rudolf Scharping. He insisted the civilized world could not stand aside and watch while acts of genocide were carried out that have not been seen in Europe since the Nazi crimes committed in the name of Germany during World War II.

The alliance, however, has its own problems. As the war progresses, strains are becoming evident in sustaining a united front. The chief NATO spokesman, Jamie Shea, said: "Democracies are always at a fundamental disadvantage because criminals know when they will commit a crime. It is always quicker for somebody like Milosevic to pull the trigger than for us to respond."

In an agonizing debate that lasted into the early hours of Wednesday, 19 ambassadors from NATO countries struggled for nearly eight hours to reach consensus on giving authority to the NATO supreme commander, General Wesley Clark, to attack targets linked to the Yugoslav leadership. Some European governments are worried that missile strikes in downtown Belgrade would cause civilian casualties and undermine public support for the air strikes.

Besides political consequences, there are military questions about the wisdom of taking the war to the Serbian capital. Some allied military officials question the value of hitting the Interior and Defense ministries, which have probably relocated to underground bunkers. Mr. Milosevic's palace, which once housed Yugoslavia's monarchy, also prompts second thoughts as a potential target.

A senior NATO official said: "It's an important symbol of Serb culture. Do you really think we can win the hearts and minds of the people and turn them against their leadership if we destroy part of their history?"

NATO's difficulties have already provoked some soul-searching about how the alliance miscalculated Mr. Milosevic's intentions. Military commanders say they missed important signals that the Serbs were preparing the forced expulsion campaign as early as October.

At that time, Mr. Milosevic fired his armed forces chief of staff, who apparently opposed the plan conceived as a springtime offensive to sweep out the ethnic Albanians. But allied military officials said they thought this was an internal power dispute.

In retrospect, they say Mr. Milosevic eliminated top commanders suspected of disloyalty, then managed to string along the alliance in the belief he would cooperate with peace negotiations.



Zeljko (Arkan) Raznatovic observing his units in Yugoslavia in 1995. He stands accused of war crimes for his actions in the war in Bosnia.

In Pristina, Street Battles And Expulsions by Train

By Paul Watson
Los Angeles Times Service

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia — Explosions and bursts of machine-gun fire have echoed across Kosovo's capital in what appeared to be a pitched battle between ethnic Albanian guerrillas and Serbian security forces — the first time that Pristina had been caught up in such fighting.

The heavy shooting began about 9:30 A.M. Tuesday, and the sound was loud enough in the center of the city that it appeared at first as if NATO was carrying out a threat to start bombing Kosovo during the day.

But no air-raid sirens wailed, and the attacks did not announce any daylight strikes on Pristina at its daily briefing in Brussels, where the alliance announced that it was set to carry out raids around the clock as cloud cover lifted over the province.

Pristina's semi-official media center confirmed that Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas were battling with security forces in the capital's Sunny Hill district and said Serbian civilians had joined in to repel the KLA attack.

If the report of Tuesday's battle proves true, it would be the KLA's boldest move since its formation in Kosovo's war-torn region 18 months ago, hardly something that Serbs would want to trumpet in the middle of a war with NATO.

Until now, Kosovo's war was fought in the countryside and the closest Pristina came to it was a few terrorist bombings. It is not clear whether those earlier bombs were planted by Serbs or ethnic Albanians.

As night fell, and the city's electricity was turned off, machine gunners exchanged fire again at the edge of Pristina.

The capital is bracing for more heavy air strikes after bombs or missiles destroyed the Interior Ministry police headquarters in the middle of the capital early Monday but left the Yugoslav police headquarters unscathed.

In the first signs of an impending

exodus from the Pristina, a long column of vehicles carrying ethnic Albanians, ethnic Turks and Serbs fled the city.

KLA guerrillas, whose fight for an independent Kosovo erupted into full-scale war in late February 1998, launched Monday's assault from the nearby village of Maricane, said Radovan Uroševic, a journalist who administers the Serbia Media Center here.

Mr. Uroševic lives in the Sunny Hill district and he said his information came from neighbors he had contacted by phone.

■ Forced Expulsions by Train

Serbian forces have herded hundreds of Pristina residents onto a train, locked the doors and expelled them from Kosovo as part of a campaign to empty the province of ethnic Albanians, Reuters reported Wednesday from Macedonia.

Weeping men, women and children were said to have been ordered off the train before dawn into a field just inside Macedonia, and they spent hours shivering in a drizzle while local police officers registered their arrival.

They spoke of being rounded up from several districts in Kosovo's capital early Tuesday, marched to the main station and forced at gunpoint to board the train.

"The police came yesterday morning and told us, 'Go, just go.' They shot in the air, so we left," said a man of 38. He and his family were given three hours to pack and leave.

The arrival of the train, which passengers said had 15 coaches, took the Macedonian authorities by surprise. It suggested Serbian forces had begun to empty Pristina, which previously had been spared.

Passengers feared they were going to be used by the Serbs as human shields against NATO air attacks.

"We thought we would be used as prisoners of war or in case of NATO attacks," said a man named Victor.

The Pristina headquarters of the Yugoslav Army and of Serbian police units have been hit hard by war planes.

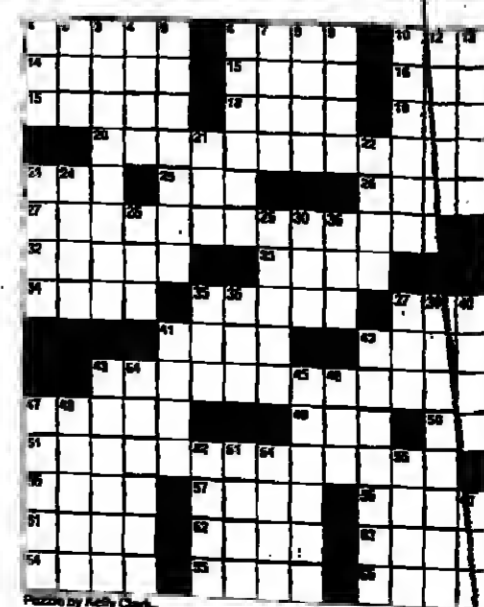


CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Cutliffe, maybe, before they were cutliffe
 - Sound of breaking up?
 - Masterpieces
 - Sylvia Plath book
 - Religious image
 - Baker's need
 - Off-quoted Yogi
 - Old Spanish kingdom
 - Coin no longer being minted
 - What happens when Kansas City wins a World Series?
 - See's partner
 - Boston team, in brief
 - Why is the milk production survey so screwy?
 - Kind of wrench
 - Like a Burns acquaintance
 - Sharp
 - Detroit's county
 - Item in which to do a pile
 - Resistance units
 - Not just a franchisee
 - Why is the drought-plagued swim club bankrupt?
 - Film maker
 - Playboy head, to friends
 - Like Okeechobee's sister: Alton
 - What's the anagrammatic reason for these odd questions?
 - Kind of gin
 - Food for Fido
 - Songs "di serimento"
 - High scores
 - 1953 Liz Taylor role
 - Busy/body
 - New England's locale
 - Fish locale
 - "Broca's Brain" author
 - Ones that may be high?
 - Tough
 - Domini
 - Green party?
 - In a bad way
 - Excellence
 - Says quickly
 - Be in a bad way
 - Kind of wit or test
 - Saturate
 - Curly cabbage
 - Compose
 - Authority
 - Prize for payment
 - Ginger
 - "me?"
 - Band aid?
 - Air letters?
 - Making whole
 - Make known
 - Bear with us at night
 - Voiced
 - Times when you're not at your peak
 - Pratfalls
 - Thinnest
 - "Hey, check that out!"
 - Guitarist Paul
 - Class

Solution to Puzzle of March 31

SNAG ABODE PAUL
TOFU NODAL EDNA
EARN KNOCKKNOCK
WHOSTHERE APPLE
MAS HEATER
FLUID SCROLL
EAST SALAMI JAP
THE HANDYMAN YOUR
ERR VOICED ANNA
TUREN EMTS
SIMILE IDW
KNITS DOORBELLS
ON THE DOLL RAIL
AIRE VINCE ECRU
LEES DIXED DEAR



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EUROPE

Peace Hopes Fade As Refugee Ranks Grow

By Jane Perlez
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The growing exodus of refugees from Kosovo — now nearly one-third of the ethnic Albanian population of the province — has left Clinton administration and NATO officials wondering whether they will be able to achieve their goal of seeing Serbs and ethnic Albanians live together peacefully.

James Rubin, the State Department spokesman, said Tuesday that the strategy of forcing ethnic Albanians from their homes, under the direction of the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic, has crystallized the animosity between the two groups. This "radicalization" of the province, he said, was making it "all the more difficult to imagine a circumstance where the people can begin to live together again."

Mr. Rubin insisted that the administration stood by the framework of the Rambouillet accord, which called

Kosovo stay within Serbia as an autonomous entity.

But NATO officials have started talking about other outcomes, including talk Tuesday that Kosovo could wind up as a separate entity under international protection — if the allies actually succeed in ousting the Serbian military.

Sketching the outlines of a protection plan, a NATO planner said that NATO would oversee the return of ethnic Albanian refugees to Kosovo and guarantee their safety under an arrangement in which the Serbs would have virtually no power.

In London, British officials said the refugees should be allowed to return home. The defense minister, George Robertson, said that Mr. Milosevic should not be rewarded for ejecting ethnic Albanians from Kosovo.

"The refugees must be allowed to go home; their homes must be rebuilt," Mr. Robertson said. He and others were not specific about who would rebuild the villages or pay for it.

The outflow of refugees, many of them traumatized by the executions they said they had witnessed, could easily destabilize the fragile countries of Macedonia and Albania, as well as the Yugoslav republic of Montenegro.

Given the speed at which the Serbian forces have pushed the ethnic Albanians out of their homes, a Balkans specialist in the administration predicted Tuesday that by the end of the week, half the Albanian population could be outside the province and the remainder left crouching in the woods.

Since NATO bombing started, Mr. Milosevic had purposely pushed refugees to Macedonia and Albania in an effort to throw into turmoil the very countries that the bombing was supposed to help protect, a Clinton administration official said.

About a third of the 2 million inhabitants of Macedonia are Albanian and a large inflow of ethnic Albanians from Kosovo could tip the balance into a majority Albanian population, the official said.

Official said, Macedonia has about 40 percent unemployment and a new democracy.

Officials there were appealing Tuesday to the European Union to take some of the ethnic Albanian refugees, and foreign ministers from Germany, Austria and Finland said they would meet Thursday near Bonn to discuss the issue.

Albania is the poorest country in Europe, barely able to look after its own people, and certainly not able to care for the tens of thousands of new refugees, the Clinton administration official said.

It was possible, the official said, that NATO troops would have to be sent to Albania as well as Macedonia — where a 12,000 strong NATO force has been poised as peacekeepers for Kosovo — to help the two countries control increasing tensions.

"I think we're going to end up with troops in Albania and Macedonia," the Clinton administration official said. "For Macedonia these refugees make big trouble."



Besa Guçi, an ethnic Albanian refugee from Kosovo, resting in a hospital in Albania on Wednesday. She said she was injured by a Serbian grenade.

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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

Leaders Fail to Solve Ulster Impasse

By James F. Clarity
New York Times Service

HILLSBOROUGH, Northern Ireland — Protestant and Roman Catholic leaders sought for a third day Wednesday to find a compromise on the bitter dispute over the disarmament of the Irish Republican Army that is blocking the peace process in this British province.

Prime Ministers Tony Blair of Britain and Bertie Ahern of Ireland left the province after two days of trying to arrange a settlement that would pave the way for the transfer of home rule powers by Britain to the new Northern Ireland Assembly. The transfer is part of the peace agreement approved April 10 last year.

The prime ministers said they would return only if the politicians worked out a compromise.

[Later Wednesday, Mr. Ahern told the Irish Parliament that he would return to Belfast later in the day to rejoin the talks, news agencies reported. A spokesman in London for Mr. Blair said the British leader would also return shortly.]

The British government denied assertions by some politicians that its Easter deadline would be postponed. Another delay would not collapse the peace effort, but could lead to renewed sectarian violence.

The crucial problem is that transfer of home rule powers may not start until the assembly forms a cabinet. Sinn Féin, the IRA's political wing, is to receive two of the cabinet posts, once they are allotted. But the First Minister of the Assembly, David Trimble, a Protestant, says he will not form a cabinet with Sinn Féin until the IRA makes a "credible beginning."



Gerry Adams, left, and Martin McGuinness of Sinn Féin at the talks Wednesday.

to decommissioning its arsenal, estimated at 100 tons of weapons and explosives.

The IRA, which is overwhelmingly Catholic, has observed a cease-fire for 20 months. On Wednesday the guerrilla organization issued a statement that was immediately and predictably described as negative by Protestant unionists and as positive by Sinn Féin and other officials.

The unionists said the statement, part of the IRA's annual proclamation marking the anniversary of the 1916 Easter

Rising of Republicans against the British colonial power, was useless because it did not contain a promise that the IRA would disarm.

But other politicians, including Sinn Féin officials, noted that the IRA had dropped its explicit vow, made last August, that there would be "no decommissioning by the IRA." The politicians noted that the statement also said the IRA supported the goals of the peace effort. The IRA also emphasized that it has held two cease-fires since 1994, and that "the IRA guns are silent."

BILBAO: Revival Built on New Museum

Continued from Page 1

But it is Bilbao's Guggenheim that gets the most attention, and the most praise.

A magnet for architects from around the world, Mr. Gehry's seemingly chaotic twisting sculpture of a building is one of the few museums anywhere where the architecture students on the outside sketching the building outnumber the art students on the inside sketching the paintings.

This huge edifice came to be because the needs of a museum in New York, a city in northern Spain and an architect who works near the beach in Santa Monica, California, came together at precisely the right moment.

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, which runs the famous modern art collection in New York City, was looking for new venues.

Frustrated with the traditional mode of museum operations — a constant battle for new acquisitions, many of which end up in warehouses — the Guggenheim's board has led a movement by major museums to get more of its art before the public.

The Guggenheim collection is so big that only 5 percent can be shown at any given time at its flagship Frank Lloyd Wright-designed building in New York City. So the museum went looking for more display space in the late 1980s — first at two more sites in New York, and then in Venice and Berlin.

By the early 1990s, the Guggenheim's board was negotiating for a site in Bilbao.

At the same time, the provincial government of Basque Country was battling violence and economic decay in its chief city, Bilbao, an industrial center near the chilly waters of the Bay of Biscay with a metropolitan population of 1 million, suffered a major blow in the late 1980s when its big shipyard in the city center closed because of low-wage competition from Eastern Europe and Asia. The 30-year terrorist campaign by Basque separatists made things worse.

"Gradually, the idea emerged that we could revive our city with art and culture," recalled Nerea Abasolo, of the museum staff. "So in 1991, we went to the Guggenheim. We said, 'Salzburg has opera. Salzburg has tourists. They don't need a museum. But we need this desperately.'"

The Guggenheim agreed that the old shipyard would be the location of its new European museum. To fill the site, the museum board asked three architects to compete for the commission. One was Austrian, one was Japanese, and one was Frank Gehry.

Mr. Gehry had a reputation as a playful designer given to witty gestures. By the early 1990s, though, he was ready to make a major architectural statement. So when he was asked to submit a design for

a giant museum along the Nervion River, he was ready.

"They were reaching out with this building to the global society," he said. And Mr. Gehry set out to create a building that the world would come to see.

Mr. Gehry's museum has some sections of honey-brown limestone and some of glass.

But on top of these materials he has placed billowing metal canopies covered with a shell of thin titanium, which gleams silver, gold and blue as it reflects the river and the sky.

For a pedestrian strolling toward the museum down Bilbao's Iparraguirre Street, it looks as if some giants had a picnic on a limestone outcropping and left their crumpled aluminum foil behind.

Just to the east of the museum site, an ugly green highway bridge on battered concrete piers crosses the river, with huge trucks rumbling by 24 hours a day.

The other two architects who bid for the commission designed large walls to block off this urban intrusion. But Mr. Gehry — whose vaguely ship-like design twists and sprawls all over the place anyway — incorporated the bridge into his building.

The museum wraps under, over and around the bridge, so that those trucks now rumble directly above a giant gallery that displays, appropriately enough, the industrial-sized steel creations of the American sculptor Richard Serra.

One problem with a museum that ranks — as Bilbao's posters proudly proclaim — as "an edifice spectacular" is that the edifice tends to overwhelm the art. Critics have said that paintings — even huge, colorful murals — tend to get lost in the museum's vast arched galleries of white plaster and blue glass.

The most successful works of art in this large and unconventional space have been massive pieces designed specifically for Bilbao.

The aura of play surrounding the project is accentuated by the American artist Jeff Koons's 35-foot-tall sculpture of a puppy, completely covered in multi-colored pansies, outside the front door. Fortunately, a plot by Basque nationalists to blow it up was foiled by police at the last minute.

The museum staff says visitors often express envy of Bilbao. "We had some people from Washington, D.C.," Nerea Abasolo said.

"They were complaining that the planning committee or the arts commission or whatever would never allow a building this unusual to be built on your mall."

"And I thought: Washington, D.C.! You have so much already! You don't need a building to gain a global profile. But for Bilbao, this new building means new life for our city."

BRIEFLY

Swiss Fox Program Eliminates Rabies

ZURICH — Switzerland has wiped out rabies by vaccinating foxes, becoming the first country to root out the disease using this method, the Federal Office for Veterinary Affairs said Wednesday.

Foxes are the primary carriers of rabies in Europe. Switzerland began a systematic campaign to vaccinate foxes in 1978 and has not detected a case of rabies in foxes since 1986.

As of April 1, dogs in Switzerland no longer need to be vaccinated against rabies, said Heinz Mueller, a spokesman for the office. Dogs from abroad will continue to need proof of vaccination. (Reuters)

Damages Lowered In 'McLibel' Case

LONDON — The English High Court on Wednesday reduced the damages two penniless British activists must pay for libeling McDonald's Corp. from £60,000 (\$96,500) to £40,000.

The court said it allowed "in part" an appeal by the environmental activists against the verdict handed down in 1997 at the end of England's longest trial ever.

In what became known as the McLibel case, Helen Steel and David Morris were ordered to pay damages to McDonald's for a libelous pamphlet. But in public relations terms the 314-day trial was widely seen to be a victory for the couple, who made it clear Wednesday that they would fight on. (Reuters)

For the Record

With France's ratification on Tuesday, the Amsterdam Treaty, the European Union's new constitution, has finally been ratified by all 15 EU countries and can enter into force on May 1, an EU spokesman in Brussels said Wednesday. (AP)

Britain's House of Lords passed a government bill on Wednesday that will strip aristocrats with inherited seats from voting in the upper house of Parliament. A government commission has until Dec. 31 to report back with suggestions for a new type of upper chamber for Parliament, possibly partly appointed and partly elected. (AP)

IA/PACIFIC

Toll Rises in Indonesia As New Violence Erupts

JAKARTA — Indonesia was struck by fresh violence Wednesday as two people died in Christian-Muslim fighting and police clashed with students in central Jakarta.

Witnesses said two people died when drunken men from rival villages, wielding machetes and homemade spears, clashed in the Kai islands in the Moluccas where more than 200 people have died in communal bloodshed this year.

The witnesses said they had seen two

bodies. Police denied there were any deaths, although they said some people had been injured in a minor clash in the islands on Wednesday.

The deaths coincided with Jakarta's first violent protest in almost a month and news that five people had died in a dispute between villagers over a plot of land on the eastern island of Flores, about 1,525 kilometers (950 miles) east of Jakarta.

In Jakarta, anti-riot police beat students with rattan batons as they tried to march on the military headquarters.

About 150 students protesting the shooting of student demonstrators in May rallied in the central Merdeka, or Freedom, Square. The students later dispersed peacefully.

It was the capital's first violent protest since March 4.

Jakarta has been largely free of violence and protests since students halted a campaign of daily rallies in mid-December.

In Flores, five people were killed in a land conflict that erupted Friday and was not brought under control until Tuesday, a local journalist said. He said that the situation was calm but tense on Wednesday.

The archipelago has been swept by waves of violence as religious, ethnic and social tensions boiled over amid the country's worst political and economic crisis in three decades.

At least 176 people have been killed in the Indonesian part of Borneo island in fighting that has pitted indigenous Malays and Dayaks against migrants from the island of Madura.

Portugal Urges Help by UN

Portugal's envoy to Indonesia on Wednesday urged the United Nations to help secure peace in the troubled province of East Timor in the run-up to a vote on autonomy likely later this year.

Reuter reported. "We should not fool ourselves," the envoy, Ana Gomes, told a news conference. "Almost every day we hear of people being killed — and we are not talking about warfare between the guerrillas and the military, we are talking about civilians."

Tensions in the former Portuguese colony of 800,000 people have escalated since Jakarta abruptly announced in January that it may grant independence if its offer of wide-ranging autonomy was rejected.

Indonesia and Portugal agreed this month to let the impoverished territory choose between autonomy and independence in a UN-organized ballot after the Indonesian election on June 7.

Singaporean Vows to Push For Freedoms

SINGAPORE — The opposition politician Chee Soon Juan was fined 600 Singapore dollars for selling books illegally, but he pledged to press ahead with his campaign for greater public freedom in Singapore.

Mr. Chee said he would continue to sell his books.

"The bookstores won't sell it; how am I going to be able to get it out to Singaporeans?" he asked.

Mr. Chee's book focuses on Asian opposition leaders, among them Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma and the Singaporean detainee Chia Thye Poh, who was released last November after more than 30 years in prison under internal security laws.

Mr. Chee, who has twice chosen to go to prison instead of paying fines for previous charges of speaking in public without a permit, opted to pay the fine this time, the equivalent of \$347, instead of serving a three-day jail term.

"This is a different matter altogether," he said. "The previous cases I was contesting on constitutional grounds; I was fighting for the freedom of speech."

Mr. Chee said democracy in Singapore was stifled by the public-speaking permit system that he challenged, by censorship laws and by state influence over key media.

The government has said the permit law is a procedural matter necessary to maintain public order and does not substantially affect the right of free speech.



An Indonesian policeman preparing to throw a rock at student protesters in a clash Wednesday in Jakarta. The students, protesting the shooting of demonstrators last spring, tried to march on military headquarters.

KOREA: U.S. Gives Stern Warning on Testing or Selling Missiles

Continued from Page 1

Pyongyang reportedly wants \$1 billion a year for three years. An official described the demand for cash compensation as "unrealistic both in principle and in the amount they were seeking."

North Korea said Wednesday that it would not change its missile policy under pressure from the United States.

A spokesman for North Korea's Foreign Ministry said it was Pyongyang's "legitimate right of self-defense to develop, test and produce missiles by its own efforts to defend the security of the country because the U.S. is posing constant threats."

Toll in Malaysian Pig-Virus Outbreak Hits 76

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia on Wednesday reported five new deaths as authorities struggled to wipe out a worsening pig-virus epidemic that has now killed 76 people.

The official Korean Central News Agency spokesman said the "enormous nuclear missile and weapons of mass destruction."

U.S. officials say the Taepodong missile tested in August solid fuel in its third stage, using that North Korea had acquired advanced technology to become the first country with land-based, intercontinental ballistic missile capability after the United States.

Washington said North Korea has sold missiles technology to Pakistan, Iran and other countries in the Middle East. It emerged as the world's leading exporter of ballistic missiles, which are believed to be its biggest source of hard currency.

South Korean officials say North Korea has 10 missile launch sites and four factories producing missile parts.

North Korea said it could not restrain its missile program unless ties with the United States significantly improved.

But that would not happen unless Pyongyang took the first steps, a U.S. official said.

The United States was prepared to ease long-standing economic sanctions under the Trading with the Enemy Act and take steps to normalize ties if North Korea agreed to missile curbs, the official said.

"We regard it as entirely appropriate to proceed with easing of sanctions as North Korea addresses the missile issue," he said.

Earlier this month, North Korea agreed to allow U.S. access to a suspected secret nuclear project.

The United States then said it would provide 200,000 tons of food aid to North Korea, which has now become the biggest recipient of U.S. foreign aid in Asia.

(Reuters, AP, AFP)

BRIEFLY

Immigrants Hold Hong Kong Protest

HONG KONG — About 150 illegal mainland Chinese were holding a sit-in protest at the main Hong Kong government offices Wednesday to demand the right to stay in the territory pending a legal appeal on a residency law.

The protesters also demanded the release of more than 100 illegal immigrants detained since Tuesday for overstaying their visas.

The renewed protests and arrests over the right of mainland Chinese to live in Hong Kong came after a court ruling Tuesday that backed the government's plans to deport the immigrants. It ruled against 17 illegal immigrants seeking the right to stay while they sought permanent residence status.

New Law on Rape Hailed in Taiwan

TAIPEI — In a move that feminists hailed Wednesday as a major step toward lifting the status of women, Taiwan passed a law that will let prosecutors press charges against rapists regardless of whether the victims go to court themselves.

Most rapists have gotten away with their crimes because the existing law, enacted 70 years ago, would not let authorities prosecute anyone unless the victim also filed a lawsuit, forcing the women to meticulously present evidence of the crime. Most victims declined.

Under the law passed Tuesday, a convicted rapist faces up to five years in prison and, if the judge thinks it necessary, up to three years of sexual therapy.

Anwar's Lawyers See Political Case

KUALA LUMPUR — Lawyers for Anwar Ibrahim, the dismissed Malaysian finance minister, closed their case in his corruption trial on Wednesday, saying his only crime was to oppose powerful politicians seeking his downfall.

The remarks upset Judge Augustine Paul, who is due to deliver his verdict in the five-month-old trial on April 6.

"If you want to make a speech like this, you should go out there," he said, pointing outside. (Reuters)

INTERNATIONAL

Mexico Party Picks Chief In Uncontested Election

By Mary Beth Sheridan
Los Angeles Times Service

MEXICO CITY — In an unsuccessful experiment with internal democracy, Mexico's long-governing Institutional Revolutionary Party has chosen a new leader — the only candidate on the ballot.

The party's failure to carry off an election with multiple candidates will fall over the victory of Jose Antonio Gonzalez Fernandez. Some analysts predicted that the election, marred by charges of manipulation, would intensify a power struggle in the party.

"The differences within the party are sharpening," said Joel Esquivel, an analyst at the Mexican Institute of Political Studies. "There is permanent uncertainty."

If divisions in the party are not healed, "there is the possibility of a return of political violence," he warned, referring to the bloodshed that accompanied the 1994 presidential campaign.

The Institutional Revolutionary Party, however, was not the only party failing at internal elections. In a reflection of the fragility of Mexico's institutions, the main leftist opposition group, the Democratic Revolution Party, is leaderless as well.

The leftist party held a nationwide vote last month to choose its new leader, but the contenders charged that it was tarnished by fraud. The party is now considering throwing out the results.

The election of party leaders is important because they will play key roles in the presidential race in 2000. That election is expected to be the most competitive in Mexico's history.

In the past, the president selected a party leader and the governing party's 370-member Political Council ratified the decision with a show of hands.

But on Tuesday, for the first time, council members voted by secret ballot, dropping paper slips into a clear plastic urn. But critics said the new process did

not mark much of an advance.

Mr. Gonzalez Fernandez, a former labor minister, had quickly gained the public support of party heavyweights who saw him as the choice of President Ernesto Zedillo, analysts noted.

One other candidate, Rodolfo Echeverria, a former member of Congress, entered the race March 22 after the resignation of the previous party leader, Mariano Palacios Alcocer. But Mr. Echeverria bowed out three days later, saying that senior party members favored his opponent.

"We don't want to be participants in another episode that doesn't contribute to the democratization or unity of our beloved party," he said.

Mr. Echeverria has been associated with critics of Mr. Zedillo and the free-market technocrats that dominate his cabinet.

In the election Tuesday, Mr. Gonzalez Fernandez received 262 votes, 26 ballots were declared null, and the rest of the council members failed to participate.

Analysts said Mr. Echeverria's angry withdrawal had thwarted the whole purpose of the party race: to confer legitimacy on the new party leader.

Gonzalez Fernandez "starts out weakened, there's no doubt," said Sergio Garmiento, a political columnist. "It will take work to recover the lost ground."

The main task of the new party leader will be to gain party support for a set of rules to choose the presidential candidate for 2000.

The Mexican president's tradition of choosing the governing party's candidate was a process known as the "dedazo" or "big finger."

But Mr. Zedillo has vowed not to follow that procedure this time and has proposed primaries instead.

Hurt by economic crises and corruption scandals, the Institutional Revolutionary Party lost its majority in the lower house of Congress for the first time in 1997 midterm elections.

Russia Sells T-90 Tanks to India

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — India will start to equip armored regiments with the new Russian T-90 tank by the end of 1999, and New Delhi may receive a license to assemble the tanks, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported Wednesday.

Citing unidentified Defense Ministry sources, the report said that a batch of 124 T-90 tanks would be delivered to India. A second batch of tanks may be assembled in India if the two nations reach a production agreement, it said.

The Russian tanks will be used as a

counter to 320 Ukrainian-made T-80UD tanks being supplied to Pakistan, the report said. Defense Minister Igor Sergeev discussed sales of the T-90 during a recent visit to New Delhi.

The T-90 is Russia's most advanced tank and is armed with a 125 mm gun and advanced protective armor.

India has long been a leading buyer of Soviet and Russian arms; its defense forces use up to 80 percent of Russian equipment and spare parts. Relations between Moscow and New Delhi have traditionally been strong.

BRIEFLY

Inmates Abused In U.S., UN Told

GENEVA — An independent fact-finder for the United Nations has said sexual misconduct by guards is common in women's prisons in the United States.

Since the current UN Human Rights Commission session began March 22, the United States has been criticized over reports of police brutality, ill-treatment of detained women seeking asylum and the use of capital punishment.

In a report presented Tuesday, the special investigator for violence against women, Radhika Coomaraswamy of Sri Lanka, added sexual misconduct in women's prisons to the list.

Inuit Get Territory In Canadian North

IQALUIT, Canada — A new territory, Nunavut, will be created Thursday. The 25,000 residents, most of them Inuit, will enjoy wide autonomy and mining rights under a deal with the Canadian government.

Nunavut, or "our land" in the language of the Inuit, comprises 2.2 million square kilometers (850,000 square miles), covering two-thirds of the Northwest Territories above the 60th parallel.

Passover Holiday Begins in Israel

JERUSALEM — With a last-minute flurry of cleaning and shopping, Israelis prepared Wednesday to usher in Passover, when Jews mark the exodus of the ancient Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

Hours before the holiday's start at sunset, markets were crowded with people buying key ingredients for a festive meal, or seder, during which the story of the flight from Egypt is ritually recounted.

Vote Split in Benin

COTONOU, Benin — Early results Wednesday from legislative elections showed a north-south split, with voters backing President Mathieu Kerekou in the north and the opposition faring better in the south.

Opposition parties made sweeping gains in Cotonou, the economic capital, on the south coast, the Local Electoral Commission said.

BMW and British Rover Plant Will

ECONOMIC SCENE



Number Crunch

Turf Wars: ...

W

Cross Rates

London: 1.0000
New York: 1.0000
Tokyo: 1.0000
Paris: 1.0000

Geneva: 1.0000
Frankfurt: 1.0000
Zurich: 1.0000

Stocks

DAX: 10,000.00
FTSE: 10,000.00
Nikkei: 10,000.00

Commodities

Oil: 10.00
Gold: 10.00
Silver: 10.00

Exchange Rates

USD/GBP: 0.60
USD/JPY: 100.00
USD/CHF: 1.00

Interest Rates

3-month: 5.00%
6-month: 5.00%
1-year: 5.00%

THURSDAY, APRIL 1999

PAGE 13

BMW and Britain Agree: Rover Plant Will Be Saved

LONDON — The British government and Bayerische Motoren Werke AG have agreed on a state aid package to secure the future of the Rover car factory at Longbridge, England, Prime Minister Tony Blair said Wednesday.

"At this stage I cannot say more about the details," Mr. Blair said, "but I am delighted that we can now look forward to BMW making Longbridge a world-class plant for the next century and one that will achieve the highest standards of productivity and working practices."

He added that the government would hold its next meeting with BMW in the week starting April 12.

BMW also declined to offer any details of the agreement in a statement, but media reports had put the government aid at £118 million (\$190.2 million).

"This news is a massive boost for both the Rover Group and the West Midlands industrial base as a whole," the German automaker said Wednesday.

The deal, which still has to be accepted by the BMW board, brings an end to months of speculation over the fate of Rover's factory at Longbridge in central England and more than 50,000 jobs that depend on it.

On Tuesday, the chairman of BMW's management board, Joachim Milberg, had said that the British government was running out of time for the factory, raising the stakes with an implicit threat to move its operation to Hungary unless a deal was struck quickly.

The chief negotiator for the TGWU transport workers union at Rover, Tony Woodley, said: "It removes the uncertainty, insecurity

and anxiety that has hung over our members for the past five months. For the 14,000 Longbridge workers, tomorrow will be the first day of a new and bright future."

Unions said they hoped that BMW would now speed a £1.7 billion program to redevelop the Longbridge plant. (AP, Reuters)

Renault Not Planning U.S. Sales

Having agreed last week to buy a little more than one-third of Nissan Motor Co., Renault SA may start selling Renault cars under the Nissan name in the United States someday, Keith Bradsher of The New York Times reported from New York. But it has no plans to revive the Renault name in the American market, Renault's chairman and chief executive, Louis Schweitzer, said.

While Renault may start selling vehicles using its own name in Mexico and possibly build these cars at a Nissan factory in that country, the French automaker has no intention of using its own name in the American market because its reputation is so weak, Mr. Schweitzer said Tuesday.

"The Renault brand image in the U.S. is poor, that's a fact," he said at a New York auto show. "It reminds people of cars that rusted, which was true years ago."

Mr. Schweitzer's comments were another sign of the importance of brand names in the consolidation of the auto industry.

Mr. Schweitzer said Renault might try to sell Nissan sport-utility vehicles in Europe under the Renault name, but in the United States, it will try to use Nissan's reputation for quality at reasonable prices while trying to enliven Nissan's designs, he said.



TWO DRIVERS — DaimlerChrysler's chairmen Robert Eaton, left, and Juergen Schrepp, second from left, and executives Christoph Walther, second from right, and Manfred Gentz, in Stuttgart. Reporting increased sales on Wednesday, the company played down merger difficulties. Page 15.

U.S. GDP Surges 6% In Quarter

Growth Rate Is Strongest
In More Than 2 Years

WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy grew in the fourth quarter of 1998 at the fastest pace in more than two years, punctuated by vigorous consumer spending and an improved trade picture, revised Commerce Department figures showed Wednesday.

But this was not enough to prevent the decade's first drop in corporate profits. The gross domestic product surged at a seasonally adjusted 6 percent annual rate during the last three months of the year, the department said Wednesday.

That was down slightly from the department's earlier estimate of 6.1 percent and was enough, with earlier quarters' performances, to increase the sum of all goods and services produced within U.S. borders by a robust 3.9 percent in 1998.

But the department's first estimate of after-tax corporate profits showed a drop at a 1 percent rate in the fourth quarter, marking the third quarterly decline of the year.

And for all of 1998, profits slipped 2.2 percent, the first drop since 1989, when profits fell 4.8 percent in a precursor to the 1990-91 recession.

Profits are being pinched by the combination of increasing labor costs and the inability of manufacturing firms to raise prices in the face of stiff price competition from imports produced in countries with devalued currencies.

A price index tied to the gross domestic product rose just 1 percent in 1998. There has not been a rate that low since 1959 when it was also 1 percent, and there has not been one lower since 1950.

Nevertheless, Wall Street remains undaunted. The Dow Jones average of industrial average broke the 10,000 barrier for the first time on Monday, but since then stocks have fallen back slightly. (Page 14)

Labor costs are increasing because the long expansion, which began its ninth year in March, reduced the unemployment rate to a 29-year low last year.

Plentiful jobs and surging stock prices have been the principal fuel of the growth in consumer spending, which represents about two-thirds of economic activity.

It rose at a 5 percent seasonally adjusted annual rate in the fourth quarter and 4.9 percent for all of 1998, the most in 14 years.

In addition to wages, consumers spent some of their stock gains and tapped their home equity in a wave of refinancing last year after mortgage rates fell to three-decade lows.

That, in turn, has shown up as a big drop in the nation's savings rate.

Also contributing to economic growth were business investment in computers and other new equipment, up 16.5 percent last year, and housing construction, up 10.4 percent, the most since 1984.

Overseas economic turmoil, however, allowed U.S. exports to increase only 1.5 percent, while imports shot up 10.6 percent.

That hurt export-dependent industries, particularly the food industry, which suffered heavy losses. Other sectors with profit declines include fabricated metal products, petroleum and coal, communications and transportation. (AP, Bloomberg)

ECONOMIC SCENE



Arthur Levitt, chief of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, says he wants global standards, but not at the cost of diluting rules that are the backbone of U.S. financial markets.

Number-Crunching Trouble Turf Wars Sour Hopes for Global Accounting Rules

By David Ignatius
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — After the financial convulsions in Thailand, South Korea, Indonesia, Russia and Brazil — all triggered in part by shoddy financial disclosure that understated how serious problems were — you might think it would be relatively simple to get the world's accountants to agree on a set of global accounting standards.

But you would be wrong. Nothing in this world is simple. Even the accountants have turf wars and bureaucratic battles that slow the path to reform.

In a world wracked by wars and tumults, the battle over accounting standards obviously is not the sexiest issue around. And for that reason, it has not received much attention. But it should, because reliable, high-quality accounting is one of the few safeguards against future financial disasters.

At the center of the accounting dispute, as with several other recent financial quarrels, is a standoff between a confident United States and a wary rest-of-the-world. American accountants believe, with good reason, that U.S. accounting standards are the world's best, and they would like to see the rest of the world come their way.

But Europeans do not want to knuckle under to what they see as an American power grab. So they are pushing their own set of international standards.

This accounting bottleneck is unfortunate. For if there was one thing the Asian financial crisis, it was the need for more reliable data, so that investors and regulators could make sound judgments about the stability of international markets.

This need for more "disclosure and transparency" was repeated like a mantra by top financial officials. The U.S. Treasury secretary, Robert Rubin, and the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Alan Greenspan, might not have a master plan for a new financial architecture, it was said, but they definitely agreed on the urgency of better accounting standards. Only with reliable financial information, everyone agreed, could the world hope to escape future market meltdowns.

But two sets of standards compete for attention. One is the U.S. "generally-accepted accounting principles," the other is a new set of international standards just completed by a group called the International Accounting Standards Committee, or IASC.

The IASC, which met in Washington earlier this month, hopes to drum up support for its international standards as a kind of accounting lingua franca. The group's director, Sir Bryan Carsberg, warns that if the United States insists on the primacy of its standards, the rest of the world will bolt.

"The European desire to set up their own standards is now very strong," he says. "Once that happens, it's very hard to bring it back."

The trouble is that American experts think some of Sir Brian's international standards are not very good, and the don't trust the IASC to administer them fairly and independently.

"We believe the IASC is politicized body," says Edmund Jenkins, the chairman of the Financial Accounting Standards Board, which sets U.S. auditing rules. He warns that some of these would-be standard setters are not independent of their gov-

See SCENE, Page 14

Mitsubishi Electric to Slash Jobs

Firm Plans to Drop 14,500 Positions in Bid to Restore Profitability

By Stephanie Strom
New York Times Service

TOKYO — Mitsubishi Electric Co., one of Japan's big and diversified electronics makers, said Wednesday it would cut 14,500 jobs, or about 10 percent of its total workforce, as part of an overhaul aimed at restoring profitability.

The announcement was one more hint that the economic recovery the government had promised in the new fiscal year, beginning Thursday, was being headed into a wave of unprecedented corporate restructuring.

The unemployment rate, which hit an all-time high of 4.6 percent in February, is not going to drop as long as companies keep making efforts to retrain their labor forces, which turn means consumers are likely to gain tight-fisted despite various government incentives encouraging them to spend.

Corporations also show no signs of ending their cost-saving behavior.

Mitsubishi Electric was only the latest company to announce plans to cut capital investment, in its case by 20 percent in the new fiscal year, and its own heavy industrial machinery business has suffered mightily as other Japanese companies have cut back.

Under normal circumstances, all of the pain that Japanese corporations are currently willing to suffer would lead to productivity gains and better profitability, which would create new jobs and new, high-return investment opportunities.

But Japan is also grappling with

deflation, which means that as fast as corporations are cutting jobs, expenses and investment, their revenue growth is falling.

Corporate sales fell 7.1 percent in the fourth quarter of 1998, according to the Ministry of Finance, 4 to 5 percent of that drop can be accounted for by the slump in wholesale prices.

"Clearly, restructuring is gaining pace, and it sounds impressive — until you look at deflation," said Andrew Shipley, an economist at Schroders Japan Ltd.

Mr. Shipley said companies would have to slash workers' compensation by 6 percent to 8 percent to make up for the erosion that deflation will inflict on sales.

Thus far, however, wages have declined just 2 percent year-on-year, and 1 percent of the work force has lost jobs.

Still, the moves that corporations are making to revamp their businesses are aggressive by Japanese standards.

Mitsubishi Electric, which is expected to post a loss of roughly 90 billion yen (\$748 million) in the fiscal year that ended Wednesday, said it would eliminate 8,400 jobs in Japan and 6,100 abroad by March 2002. More than 2,000 of those jobs have already been slashed.

The company has already taken an axe to its American operations, closing a semiconductor factory, abandoning its sales of analog televisions and subcontracting the production of cellular phones.

In Europe, it has stopped produ-

cing computers and televisions in Britain and eliminated its semiconductor assembly and testing operations in Germany.

Mitsubishi Electric also said it would begin reversing a long-standing aversion to spinning off businesses and start logging off unprofitable subsidiaries by March 2001.

The company said that it would reduce the number of its consolidated subsidiaries to 140 from the present 180.

Analysts have long asked the company to jettison its consumer-electronics business, and some would like to see it exit auto-parts manufacturing.

The company's money-losing semiconductor manufacturing business is known for its good technology, but it lacks the high sales and investment needed to compete with larger competitors.

Mitsubishi Electric said Wednesday that it planned to restore profitability to its semiconductor operations in two years by focusing on building more customized chips, a strategy being pursued by many of its competitors.

The company predicted sales of 4 trillion yen on a consolidated basis by March 2002, compared with 3.7 trillion yen in revenues it expects in the fiscal year that ended Wednesday.

Mitsubishi Electric, which also is a big producer of defense electronics, said it hoped to become the world's largest manufacturer of satellites and satellite equipment, as well as a leading seller of next-generation communications infrastructure technology. (AP, Bloomberg)

LTCM Manages a Rebound

By Joseph Kahn
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Long-Term Capital Management LP, the giant hedge fund that Wall Street firms saved from collapse during the turmoil in stock and bond markets last September, has recovered robustly and plans to start paying back its rescuers as early as June.

The consortium of 14 banks and brokerage firms that controls Long-Term Capital said Tuesday that the fund was much less risky now than it was six months ago, having reduced its market risk by 50 percent, although it

did not define how risk was measured.

Even so, the consortium said, Long-Term Capital's investments have gained more than 20 percent after paying management fees, a recovery the consortium said was faster than anticipated.

Barring a downturn in the bond markets in which Long-Term Capital has large investments, the hedge fund will return at least part of the capital invested by the consortium in the second half of this year, the consortium said in a published statement.

People close to the fund said it was possible that the consortium members, which invested between \$100 million and \$300 million apiece, could receive all of their money within a year or so, rather than the three years initially anticipated.

The announcement confirmed earlier reports of a turnaround in the hedge fund's fortunes. Bond markets generally have rebounded from the lows they reached last autumn after Russia's debt default sent global bond markets, and Long-Term Capital's portfolio, tumbling.

Many Wall Street companies and other investors who specialize in bond investments have posted big profits in recent months.

But Long-Term Capital's recovery is noteworthy because it made sizable gains even while reducing risk, two

goals that are not always complementary. Reducing risk generally means borrowing less money and buying securities judged less likely to swing sharply in price. That helps protect the fund in down markets but reduces potential gains when things go well.

People close to Long-Term Capital said its total assets and liabilities had been reduced, but they declined to provide specific figures. When the hedge fund foundered last fall, it held securities valued at \$120 billion.

The news about Long-Term Capital seems likely to bolster the efforts of its founding partners, led by the former Salomon Brothers bond trader John Meriwether, to prepare the hedge fund for a future without Wall Street patrons.

Mr. Meriwether plans to raise fresh capital from private investors as soon as possible, people close to the fund said. He is eager to wind down his affiliation with the consortium, whose six-man team oversees the fund.

The consortium consists of large banks and brokerage houses, including Chase Manhattan Corp., Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. and Merrill Lynch & Co.

People close to the consortium said that by June the members would decide how much money to withdraw from Long-Term Capital and whether to give Mr. Meriwether permission to raise money from other sources.

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IMF Salutes Brazil's Cut In Inflation

Brazilian stocks, meanwhile, fell 3 percent in late trading as concern over a possible investigation into the country's banking system offset expectations of further interest rate cuts, which would reduce company borrowing costs. The Bovespa index of 57 leading shares fell 328.90 points to 10,698.68 in late trading.
(Reuters, Bloomberg)

- **BP Amoco PLC's** board approved a plan to acquire **Atlantic Richfield Co.** for as much as \$28 billion. Atlantic Richfield's board is to vote later on the buyout.
- **Telecom Italia SpA** paid \$246 million to take control of two Brazilian companies, **Tele Celular Sul Participacoes SA** and **Tele Nordeste Celular Participacoes SA**, that together control nine mobile telephone operators. *Bloomberg, AFP, Reuters, AP*

Because of the seven-hour time difference between New York and Paris this week, the U.S. stock tables, the U.S. futures and some other financial data in this edition reflect early or previous day's prices, as noted. This change is necessary to meet distribution requirements.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|-------------------|---|-------|------|------|
| REVERSE STOCK SPLIT | | | | | | Rackson Aero | Q | .2575 | 4.12 | 4.28 |
| | | | | | | Scofield Path | | 1.4 | 3.30 | 3.31 |
| | | | | | | Scofield Path Bol | O | 1.09 | 3.30 | 3.31 |
| | | | | | | Shirley Corp | A | .65 | 4.30 | 4.31 |
| INCREASED | | | | | | Limited Kicker | A | .60 | 4.31 | 4.31 |
| | | | | | | Udo Mobilchem | O | .1675 | 5.17 | 6.15 |
| | | | | | | Wash Fed Inc. | I | .22 | 4.30 | 4.30 |
| | | | | | | Weyne Svcs | I | .155 | 4.12 | 4.27 |
| REGULAR | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | AARP Dir Inco | Q | .19 | 3.30 | 3.31 |
| | | | | | | Aqua Argentin | I | .1625 | 4.12 | 4.26 |
| | | | | | | Columbia Brgy | I | .08 | 4.13 | 4.23 |

Sales figure are unaffected. **Yearly highs and lows** reflect the previous 52 weeks plus the current week, until the last trading day. Where a split or dividend amounting to 25 cents or more occurs, the new open bid, the years' high-low range and dividends are shown for the new stock only. Unless otherwise noted, rates of dividends are annual distributions based on the latest dividend declaration.

m - dividend also paid as m; b - annual rate of dividend plus stock dividend. c - liquidating dividend. cr - PE exceeds 99.44 - called - d - newly York ex-40 - loss in the last 12 months. e - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months. f - annual rate, increased on last declaration. g - dividend in Canadian funds, subject to 15% non-residence tax. i - dividend declared after split-up orstock dividend. j - dividend paid this year, omitted, deferred, or no action taken after last dividend meeting. k - dividend declared or paid this year, on an accumulative basis with dividends in arrears. n - dividend rate, reduced on last declaration. o - dividend rate, increased on last declaration. p - dividend rate, unchanged on last declaration. q - new dividend. r - dividend rate, used daily (see - i) initial dividend, annual rate unknown. P/E - price-earnings ratio. s - closed-and-reopened fund. t - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months, plus stock dividend. u - stock split. Dividend begins with date of split. sz - sizes. z - dividend paid in stock in preceding 12 months. Estimated cash value on m-dividend or cr-distribution date. aa - new yearly high. y - trading halted. In - bankruptcy or receivership or being reorganized by court. Under the Bankruptcy Act, or securities assumed by such company. wd - when distributed. wkd - when issued. wr - without call. x - ex-dividend or ex-right-to-dividend. yd - distribution.

It was the fourth cut in the benchmark interest rate, which is known as the bank rate, in the past seven months. Some analysts said they expected further cuts soon.

He made his comments as he announced that the IMF was releasing \$460 million to Indonesia and would increase its loan total by a further \$1 billion to \$12.3 billion. He said that corporate restructuring needed to be implemented more forcefully and *bankruptcy laws made consistent* with international practice.

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|------------|-----------|---------|--------|-------|
| FRENCH 50V. BONDS (ONATIF) | | | | Sep 01 | 96.40 | 96.40 | 96.40 | +0.00 |
| 10 - yrs of 100 pct | | | | Exp. date: | 15.03.98 | | | |
| 95.25 | N.A.T. | 95.14 | + 0.59 | 79.22Z | Open bid: | 104.850 | up 274 | |
| 95.00 | N.T. | 95.03 | + 0.59 | 0 | | | | |
| N.T. | N.T. | 95.07 | + 0.59 | 0 | | | | |
| 27.601 | | | | | | | | |
| 79.22Z on 1.680 | | | | | | | | |
| MONTH (CAMERO) | | | | | | | | |
| 100 pct | | | | | | | | |
| 95.06 | 95.05 | 95.05 | Unch. | 14.131 | | | | |

Standard & Poor's said Wednesday that the

— *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997

EUROPE

DaimlerChrysler Sees 4% Profit Rise for 1999 Britain Set To Raise Wage Grid

STUTTGART — DaimlerChrysler AG reported Wednesday that its sales rose 6 percent in the first two months of this year and it predicted that revenue and operating profit for all of 1999 would rise at least 4 percent.

In releasing the projections, executives sought to play down transatlantic culture clashes in the company formed by last year's takeover of Chrysler Corp. by Daimler-Benz AG.

Despite some top-level defections in the first four months, mainly from the U.S. side, the co-chairmen, Juergen Schrempf of Daimler and Robert Eaton of Chrysler, said the companies were working well together.

Technical aspects of last year's merger, such as coordinating global sales and purchasing, were on track, they said, and savings were already being realized.

DaimlerChrysler said its previously announced target of \$1.4 billion of merger-related savings would be achieved this year.

Sales rose in all of the company's divisions, management said at a news conference at Stuttgart, where it is based.

Revenue is expected to rise at least 4 percent over the record level in 1998, and Mr. Schrempf said growth in operating profit "will definitely match sales growth."

Due to economic stability on both sides of the Atlantic, the confidence of continued success in 1999, despite some tough challenges around the rest of the world, said Mr. Eaton, who headed Chrysler before the merger.

Using Europe's new single currency, the company said revenue for 1999 was expected to climb to 137 billion euros (\$147 billion) from 131.8 billion euros in 1998. It also said almost half of 1998's

record \$10.2 billion operating profit came from the Chrysler passenger car and truck division, which includes Plymouth, Jeep and Dodge. Chrysler's contribution was \$4.9 billion.

DaimlerChrysler projected steady expansion for all of its activities, particularly in the key markets of Western Europe and North America.

Mr. Schrempf added that while DaimlerChrysler was not happy for now with the sales of its new Smart microcompact car, it still supported the idea.

But while business operations are merging at a "great pace," Mr. Schrempf said, "the human integration, that's a process that's going to take longer because we have to take into consideration human feelings."

Those difficulties were partly responsible for DaimlerChrysler's decision this month not to buy into

the Nissan Motor Co. of Japan, said both Mr. Schrempf and Mr. Eaton.

"We need to focus on making sure our merger is successful," Mr. Eaton said.

Joint projects already are under way in areas such as sales and marketing and in combined financial services. The Mercedes M-Class off-road vehicle, which is built in the United States, begins European production in May at Chrysler's Jeep plant in Graz, Austria.

But there also have been defections of Chrysler executives to General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co., with some reports suggesting the Americans felt Germans were being favored.

"When you have a management team as attractive as we have, you always have people trying to lure them away," Mr. Eaton said. "I'm not concerned at all."

(AP, Bridge News)

Britain Set To Raise Wage Grid

LONDON — Almost 2 million of Britain's poorest workers will see a small increase in their weekly pay packets on Thursday as Britain adopts a national minimum wage.

The government hopes the policy, along with its new working families' tax credit and historically low 10 percent starting rate of income tax, will lift at least some Britons from the trap of poverty.

But will it really be that simple? Will the minimum wage prove a cure for poverty, or a crude, counterproductive government control that smacks of the traditional socialist Labour Party of old?

The danger, say the free-market economists, is that as the price of work rises, demand for it will decline.

The independent think tank Business Strategies estimates that up to 80,000 jobs will disappear over the next three years.

But, counter the interventionists, at £3.60 an hour, the wage floor is low enough to prevent mass job losses but high enough to make a difference to those at the bottom of the income scale. The rate will be £3 for those between 18 and 21.

The minimum wage is a key plank of the Labour Party's determination to get Britons off welfare. Its introduction, which brings Britain's wage policy into line with most other industrialized countries, has been relatively trouble-free.

John Philpott, a director at the Employment Policy Institute, estimates that 200,000 or so small companies will find the minimum wage difficult to live with.

25 New Locales to Get Equant's Data Services

NEW YORK — Helping to expand the digital world, Equant NV of the Netherlands was expected to announce Wednesday that it would offer advanced data services in 25 additional territories and countries, including Albania, Georgia and Papua New Guinea.

The announcement will bring to more than 100 the number of countries and territories in which Equant offers the data service known as frame relay, giving it perhaps the world's most geographically extensive communications network.

Frame relay is well suited to connecting corporate networks with far-flung sites and to transmitting information such as credit-card data or requests from automated teller machines.

Glaxo and Bristol-Myers Shares Gain

LONDON — Shares of the drugmakers Glaxo Wellcome PLC of Britain and Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. of the United States rose again Wednesday on continued speculation that they would combine to form the world's largest pharmaceutical company.

After having risen a total of 8.8 percent on Monday and Tuesday, Bristol-Myers shares rose a further 31.25 cents to \$64.75 in late trading in New York, adding about \$5 billion to Bristol-Myers' market capitalization, in response to reports about merger talks in London newspapers.

Glaxo shares rose 81 pence to close at £20.67 (\$33.32) in London.

Bristol-Myers and Glaxo executives declined to comment on the speculation, Bristol-Myers' uncertain management situation helped fuel merger speculation. That company's chief executive, Charles Heimbold, was paid \$22 million in stock last year to stay with the company through the end

of 2001. Although Mr. Heimbold has turned 65, Bristol-Myers has not found a successor. "Charlie is retiring in two years," said Viren Mehta, an analyst with Mehta Partners. "It makes it easier to contemplate someone else becoming a CEO."

Bristol-Myers last year announced management changes that analysts described as a competition to find a new chief executive within the company.

Three executives were appointed to posts where they will probably spend more time with Bristol-Myers board members.

These were Peter Dolan, who has responsibility for organizational effectiveness; Peter Ringrose, who leads Bristol-Myers research; and Stephen Sadove, president of the worldwide beauty and nutritional unit.

Mr. Sadove's unit has boosted sales of key products, such as Herbal Essences shampoos. (Bloomberg, Reuters)

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Wednesday, March 31
Prices in local currencies
in euros for EMU countries.
Tel: 020 7556 1000

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NYSE

The Associated Press

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| 1977-78 | 1976-77 | 1975-76 | 1974-75 | 1973-74 | 1972-73 | 1971-72 | 1970-71 | 1969-70 | 1968-69 | 1967-68 | 1966-67 | 1965-66 | 1964-65 | 1963-64 | 1962-63 | 1961-62 | 1960-61 | 1959-60 | 1958-59 | 1957-58 | 1956-57 | 1955-56 | 1954-55 | 1953-54 | 1952-53 | 1951-52 | 1950-51 | 1949-50 | 1948-49 | 1947-48 | 1946-47 | 1945-46 | 1944-45 | 1943-44 | 1942-43 | 1941-42 | 1940-41 | 1939-40 | 1938-39 | 1937-38 | 1936-37 | 1935-36 | 1934-35 | 1933-34 | 1932-33 | 1931-32 | 1930-31 | 1929-30 | 1928-29 | 1927-28 | 1926-27 | 1925-26 | 1924-25 | 1923-24 | 1922-23 | 1921-22 | 1920-21 | 1919-20 | 1918-19 | 1917-18 | 1916-17 | 1915-16 | 1914-15 | 1913-14 | 1912-13 | 1911-12 | 1910-11 | 1909-10 | 1908-09 | 1907-08 | 1906-07 | 1905-06 | 1904-05 | 1903-04 | 1902-03 | 1901-02 | 1900-01 | 1899-00 | 1898-99 | 1897-98 | 1896-97 | 1895-96 | 1894-95 | 1893-94 | 1892-93 | 1891-92 | 1890-91 | 1889-90 | 1888-89 | 1887-88 | 1886-87 | 1885-86 | 1884-85 | 1883-84 | 1882-83 | 1881-82 | 1880-81 | 1879-80 | 1878-79 | 1877-78 | 1876-77 | 1875-76 | 1874-75 | 1873-74 | 1872-73 | 1871-72 | 1870-71 | 1869-70 | 1868-69 | 1867-68 | 1866-67 | 1865-66 | 1864-65 | 1863-64 | 1862-63 | 1861-62 | 1860-61 | 1859-60 | 1858-59 | 1857-58 | 1856-57 | 1855-56 | 1854-55 | 1853-54 | 1852-53 | 1851-52 | 1850-51 | 1849-50 | 1848-49 | 1847-48 | 1846-47 | 1845-46 | 1844-45 | 1843-44 | 1842-43 | 1841-42 | 1840-41 | 1839-40 | 1838-39 | 1837-38 | 1836-37 | 1835-36 | 1834-35 | 1833-34 | 1832-33 | 1831-32 | 1830-31 | 1829-30 | 1828-29 | 1827-28 | 1826-27 | 1825-26 | 1824-25 | 1823-24 | 1822-23 | 1821-22 | 1820-21 | 1819-20 | 1818-19 | 1817-18 | 1816-17 | 1815-16 | 1814-15 | 1813-14 | 1812-13 | 1811-12 | 1810-11 | 1809-10 | 1808-09 | 1807-08 | 1806-07 | 1805-06 | 1804-05 | 1803-04 | 1802-03 | 1801-02 | 1800-01 | 1799-00 | 1798-99 | 1797-98 | 1796-97 | 1795-96 | 1794-95 | 1793-94 | 1792-93 | 1791-92 | 1790-91 | 1789-90 | 1788-89 | 1787-88 | 1786-87 | 1785-86 | 1784-85 | 1783-84 | 1782-83 | 1781-82 | 1780-81 | 1779-80 | 1778-79 | 1777-78 | 1776-77 | 1775-76 | 1774-75 | 1773-74 | 1772-73 | 1771-72 | 1770-71 | 1769-70 | 1768-69 | 1767-68 | 1766-67 | 1765-66 | 1764-65 | 1763-64 | 1762-63 | 1761-62 | 1760-61 | 1759-60 | 1758-59 | 1757-58 | 1756-57 | 1755-56 | 1754-55 | 1753-54 | 1752-53 | 1751-52 | 1750-51 | 1749-50 | 1748-49 | 1747-48 | 1746-47 | 1745-46 | 1744-45 | 1743-44 | 1742-43 | 1741-42 | 1740-41 | 1739-40 | 1738-39 | 1737-38 | 1736-37 | 1735-36 | 1734-35 | 1733-34 | 1732-33 | 1731-32 | 1730-31 | 1729-30 | 1728-29 | 1727-28 | 1726-27 | 1725-26 | 1724-25 | 1723-24 | 1722-23 | 1721-22 | 1720-21 | 1719-20 | 1718-19 | 1717-18 | 1716-17 | 1715-16 | 1714-15 | 1713-14 | 1712-13 | 1711-12 | 1710-11 | 1709-10 | 1708-09 | 1707-08 | 1706-07 | 1705-06 | 1704-05 | 1703-04 | 1702-03 | 1701-02 | 1700-01 | 1699-00 | 1698-99 | 1697-98 | 1696-97 | 1695-96 | 1694-95 | 1693-94 | 1692-93 | 1691-92 | 1690-91 | 1689-90 | 1688-89 | 1687-88 | 1686-87 | 1685-86 | 1684-85 | 1683-84 | 1682-83 | 1681-82 | 1680-81 | 1679-80 | 1678-79 | 1677-78 | 1676-77 | 1675-76 | 1674-75 | 1673-74 | 1672-73 | 1671-72 | 1670-71 | 1669-70 | 1668-69 | 1667-68 | 1666-67 | 1665-66 | 1664-65 | 1663-64 | 1662-63 | 1661-62 | 1660-61 | 1659-60 | 1658-59 | 1657-58 | 1656-57 | 1655-56 | 1654-55 | 1653-54 | 1652-53 | 1651-52 | 1650-51 | 1649-50 | 1648-49 | 1647-48 | 1646-47 | 1645-46 | 1644-45 | 1643-44 | 1642-43 | 1641-42 | 1640-41 | 1639-40 | 1638-39 | 1637-38 | 1636-37 | 1635-36 | 1634-35 | 1633-34 | 1632-33 | 1631-32 | 1630-31 | 1629-30 | 1628-29 | 1627-28 | 1626-27 | 1625-26 | 1624-25 | 1623-24 | 1622-23 | 1621-22 | 1620-21 | 1619-20 | 1618-19 | 1617-18 | 1616-17 | 1615-16 | 1614-15 | 1613-14 | 1612-13 | 1611-12 | 1610-11 | 1609-10 | 1608-09 | 1607-08 | 1606-07 | 1605-06 | 1604-05 | 1603-04 | 1602-03 | 1601-02 | 1600-01 | 1599-00 | 1598-99 | 1597-98 | 1596-97 | 1595-96 | 1594-95 | 1593-94 | 1592-93 | 1591-92 | 1590-91 | 1589-90 | 1588-89 | 1587-88 | 1586-87 | 1585-86 | 1584-85 | 1583-84 | 1582-83 | 1581-82 | 1580-81 | 1579-80 | 1578-79 | 1577-78 | 1576-77 | 1575-76 | 1574-75 | 1573-74 | 1572-73 | 1571-72 | 1570-71 | 1569-70 | 1568-69 | 1567-68 | 1566-67 | 1565-66 | 1564-65 | 1563-64 | 1562-63 | 1561-62 | 1560-61 | 1559-60 | 1558-59 | 1557-58 | 1556-57 | 1555-56 | 1554-55 | 1553-54 | 1552-53 | 1551-52 | 1550-51 | 1549-50 | 1548-49 | 1547-48 | 1546-47 | 1545-46 | 1544-45 | 1543-44 | 1542-43 | 1541-42 | 1540-41 | 1539-40 | 1538-39 | 1537-38 | 1536-37 | 1535-36 | 1534-35 | 1533-34 | 1532-33 | 1531-32 | 1530-31 | 1529-30 | 1528-29 | 1527-28 | 1526-27 | 1525-26 | 1524-25 | 1523-24 | 1522-23 | 1521-22 | 1520-21 | 1519-20 | 1518-19 | 1517-18 | 1516-17 | 1515-16 | 1514-15 | 1513-14 | 1512-13 | 1511-12 | 1510-11 | 1509-10 | 1508-09 | 1507-08 | 1506-07 | 1505-06 | 1504-05 | 1503-04 | 1502-03 | 1501-02 | 1500-01 | 1499-00 | 1498-99 | 1497-98 | 1496-97 | 1495-96 | 1494-95 | 1493-94 | 1492-93 | 1491-92 | 1490-91 | 1489-90 | 1488-89 | 1487-88 | 1486-87 | 1485-86 | 1484-85 | 1483-84 | 1482-83 | 1481-82 | 1480-81 | 1479-80 | 1478-79 | 1477-78 | 1476-77 | 1475-76 | 1474-75 | 1473-74 | 1472-73 | 1471-72 | 1470-71 | 1469-70 | 1468-69 | 1467-68 | 1466-67 | 1465-66 | 1464-65 | 1463-64 | 1462-63 | 1461-62 | 1460-61 | 1459-60 | 1458-59 | 1457-58 | 1456-57 | 1455-56 | 1454-55 | 1453-54 | 1452-53 | 1451-52 | 1450-51 | 1449-50 | 1448-49 | 1447-48 | 1446-47 | 1445-46 | 1444-45 | 1443-44 | 1442-43 | 1441-42 | 1440-41 | 1439-40 | 1438-39 | 1437-38 | 1436-37 | 1435-36 | 1434-35 | 1433-34 | 1432-33 | 1431-32 | 1430-31 | 1429-30 | 1428-29 | 1427-28 | 1426-27 | 1425-26 | 1424-25 | 1423-24 | 1422-23 | 1421-22 | 1420-21 | 1419-20 | 1418-19 | 1417-18 | 1416-17 | 1415-16 | 1414-15 | 1413-14 | 1412-13 | 1411-12 | 1410-11 | 1409-10 | 1408-09 | 1407-08 | 1406-07 | 1405-06 | 1404-05 | 1403-04 | 1402-03 | 1401-02 | 1400-01 | 1399-00 | 1398-99 | 1397-98 | 1396-97 | 1395-96 | 1394-95 | 1393-94 | 1392-93 | 1391-92 | 1390-91 | 1389-90 | 1388-89 | 1387-88 | 1386-87 | 1385-86 | 1384-85 | 1383-84 | 1382-83 | 1381-82 | 1380-81 | 1379-80 | 1378-79 | 1377-78 | 1376-77 | 1375-76 | 1374-75 | 1373-74 | 1372-73 | 1371-72 | 1370-71 | 1369-70 | 1368-69 | 1367-68 | 1366-67 | 1365-66 | 1364-65 | 1363-64 | 1362-63 | 1361-62 | 1360-61 | 1359-60 | 1358-59 | 1357-58 | 1356-57 | 1355-56 | 1354-55 | 1353-54 | 1352-53 | 1351-52 | 1350-51 | 1349-50 | 1348-49 | 1347-48 | 1346-47 | 1345-46 | 1344-45 | 1343-44 | 1342-43 | 1341-42 | 1340-41 | 1339-40 | 1338-39 | 1337-38 | 1336-37 | 1335-36 | 1334-35 | 1333-34 | 1332-33 | 1331-32 | 1330-31 | 1329-30 | 1328-29 | 1327-28 | 1326-27 | 1325-26 | 1324-25 | 1323-24 | 1322-23 | 1321-22 | 1320-21 | 1319-20 | 1318-19 | 1317-18 | 1316-17 | 1315-16 | 1314-15 | 1313-14 | 1312-13 | 1311-12 | 1310-11 | 1309-10 | 1308-09 | 1307-08 | 1306-07 | 1305-06 | 1304-05 | 1303-04 | 1302-03 | 1301-02 | 1300-01 | 1299-00 | 1298-99 | 1297-98 | 1296-97 | 1295-96 | 1294-95 | 1293-94 | 1292-93 | 1291-92 | 1290-91 | 1289-90 | 1288-89 | 1287-88 | 1286-87 | 1285-86 | 1284-85 | 1283-84 | 1282-83 | 1281-82 | 1280-81 | 1279-80 | 1278-79 | 1277-78 | 1276-77 | 1275-76 | 1274-75 | 1273-74 | 1272-73 | 1271-72 | 1270-71 | 1269-70 | 1268-69 | 1267-68 | 1266-67 | 1265-66 | 1264-65 | 1263-64 | 1262-63 | 1261-62 | 1260-61 | 1259-60 | 1258-59 | 1257-58 | 1256-57 | 1255-56 | 1254-55 | 1253-54 | 1252-53 | 1251-52 | 1250-51 | 1249-50 | 1248-49 | 1247-48 | 1246-47 | 1245-46 | 1244-45 | 1243-44 | 1242-43 | 1241-42 | 1240-41 | 1239-40 | 1238-39 | 1237-38 | 1236-37 | 1235-36 | 1234-35 | 1233-34 | 1232-33 | 1231-32 | 1230-31 | 1229-30 | 1228-29 | 1227-28 | 1226-27 | 1225-26 | 1224-25 | 1223-24 | 1222-23 | 1221-22 | 1220-21 | 1219-20 | 1218-19 | 1217-18 | 1216-17 | 1215-16 | 1214-15 | 1213-14 | 1212-13 | 1211-12 | 1210-11 | 1209-10 | 1208-09 | 1207-08 | 1206-07 | 1205-06 | 1204-05 | 1203-04 | 1202-03 | 1201-02 | 1200-01 | 1199-00 | 1198-99 | 1197-98 | 1196-97 | 1195-96 | 1194-95 | 1193-94 | 1192-93 | 1191-92 | 1190-91 | 1189-90 | 1188-89 | 1187-88 | 1186-87 | 1185-86 | 1184-85 | 1183-84 | 1182-83 | 1181-82 | 1180-81 | 1179-80 | 1178-79 | 1177-78 | 1176-77 | 1175-76 | 1174-75 | 1173-74 | 1172-73 | 1171-72 | 1170-71 | 1169-70 | 1168-69 | 1167-68 | 1166-67 | 1165-66 | 1164-65 | 1163-64 | 1162-63 | 1161-62 | 1160-61 | 1159-60 | 1158-59 | 1157-58 | 1156-57 | 1155-56 | 1154-55 | 1153-54 | 1152-53 | 1151-52 | 1150-51 | 1149-50 | 1148-49 | 1147-48 | 1146-47 | 1145-46 | 1144-45 | 1143-44 | 1142-43 | 1141-42 | 1140-41 | 1139-40 | 1138-39 | 1137-38 | 1136-37 | 1135-36 | 1134-35 | 1133-34 | 1132-33 | 1131-32 | 1130-31 | 1129-30 | 1128-29 | 1127-28 | 1126-27 | 1125-26 | 1124-25 | 1123-24 | 1122-23 | 1121-22 | 1120-21 | 1119-20 | 1118-19 | 1117-18 | 1116-17 | 1115-16 | 1114-15 | 1113-14 | 1112-13 | 1111-12 | 1110-11 | 1109-10 | 1108-09 | 1107-08 | 1106-07 | 1105-06 | 1104-05 | 1103-04 | 1102-03 | 1101-02 | 1100-01 | 1099-00 | 1098-99 | 1097-98 | 1096-97 | 1095-96 | 1094-95 | 1093-94 | 1092-93 | 1091-92 | 1090-91 | 1089-90 | 1088-89 | 1087-88 | 1086-87 | 1085-86 | 1084-85 | 1083-84 | 1082-83 | 1081-82 | 1080-81 | 1079-80 | 1078-79 | 1077-78 | 1076-77 | 1075-76 | 1074-75 | 1073-74 | 1072-73 | 1071-72 | 1070-71 | 1069-70 | 1068-69 | 1067-68 | 1066-67 | 1065-66 | 1064-65 | 1063-64 | 1062-63 | 1061-62 | 1060-61 | 1059-60 | 1058-59 | 1057-58 | 1056-57 | 1055-56 | 1054-55 | 1053-54 | 1052-53 | 1051-52 | 1050-51 | 1049-50 | 1048-49 | 1047-48 | 1046-47 | 1045-46 | 1044-45 | 1043-44 | 1042-43 | 1041-42 | 1040-41 | 1039-40 | 1038-39 | 1037-38 | 1036-37 | 1035-36 | 1034-35 | 1033-34 | 1032-33 | 1031-32 | 1030-31 | 1029-30 | 1028-29 | 1027-28 | 1026-27 | 1025-26 | 1024-25 | 1023-24 | 1022-23 | 1021-22 | 1020-21 | 1019-20 | 1018-19 | 1017-18 | 1016-17 | 1015-16 | 1014-15 | 1013-14 | 1012-13 | 1011-12 | 1010-11 | 1009-10 | 1008-09 | 1007-08 | 1006-07 | 1005-06 | 1004-05 | 1003-04 | 1002-03 | 1001-02 | 1000-01 | 999-00 | 998-99 | 997-98 | 996-97 | 995-96 | 994-95 | 993-94 | 992-93 | 991-92 | 990-91 | 989-90 | 988-89 | 987-88 | 986-87 | 985-86 | 984-85 | 983-84 | 982-83 | 981-82 | 980-81 | 979-80 | 978-79 | 977-78 | 976-77 | 975-76 | 974-75 | 973-74 | 972-73 | 971-72 | 970-71 | 969-70 | 968-69 | 967-68 | 966-67 | 965-66 | 964-65 | 963-64 | 962-63 | 961-62 | 960-61 | 959-60 | 958-59 | 957-58 | 956-57 | 955-56 | 954-55 | 953-54 | 952-53 | 951-52 | 950-51 | 949-50 | 948-49 | 947-48 | 946-47 | 945-46 | 944-45 | 943-44 | 942-43 | 941- |
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Japan Turns Tables and Says U.S. Breaks WTO Rules

TOKYO — Japan turned the tables on the United States on Wednesday by accusing Washington of flouting the rules of the World Trade Organization.

The annual report from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said U.S. anti-dumping legis-

lation, which allows civil and penal sanctions against dumped imports, was "highly likely to be inconsistent with the WTO agreement."

It added that so-called anti-circumvention measures in the United States aimed at blocking dumping "may impede legitimate trade and investment activities" and would be monitored by Tokyo.

MITI started issuing annual reports in 1992 to counter reports critical of Japan by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. A MITI official said that, unlike the U.S. reports, the MITI reports were "based on objective WTO rules."

The official added, "There were those who originally said that people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones, but after eight years, we think our reports have really established themselves."

The report also cited patent issues with the United States, India's auto policy and intellectual property rights protection in Southeast Asia as ongoing issues. On Washington's threats of action on steel that it said was sold at unfairly low prices on the

U.S. market, MITI said, "We will continue to monitor U.S. government procedures from the perspective of conformity with WTO rules."

The U.S. House of Representatives this month overwhelmingly approved a bill that would impose tariffs on steel imports, but President Bill Clinton's administration has said the president would veto it if it passed the Senate because he believes it violates international trade rules.

Nonetheless, Mr. Clinton has vowed that the United States will respond if Japanese steel imports do not reverse the surge seen last year and recede to 1997 levels.

The MITI report attacks the 1916 U.S. anti-dumping law probably in violation of WTO rules. "We will seek at the WTO to have the law brought into compliance with the agreement," the report said.

Japan's steel exports to the United States began falling sharply in December, and Tokyo forecasts that they will decline roughly to 1997 levels in the fiscal year starting Thursday as a natural result of slowing U.S. demand.

The Japanese Steel Federation said Wednesday that Japanese steel exports fell in February for the first time in 25 months as shipments to the United States declined sharply. Steel exports totaled 1.73 million metric tons in February, down 13.3 percent from a year ago, said the federation spokesman, Yoshihisa Hino.

Steel exports to the United States plummeted 51.1 percent to 215,000 metric tons for the third straight monthly decline.

The MITI report also criticized Washington's recently revived "Super 301" trade law provision, which empowers the government to retaliate unilaterally if it judges other countries' practices to be unfair.

(AFP, Reuters)

Guangdong Investment Has Loss

HONG KONG — Guangdong Investment Ltd. posted a net loss of 2.01 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$259 million) for 1998 on Wednesday, its first loss since the flag-ship of the Guangdong provincial government listed its stock on the Hong Kong exchange in 1991.

The loss, after a profit of 750.3 million dollars in 1997, underlines the troubles faced by so-called red chip companies since Guangdong International Trust & Investment Corp. defaulted on an international bond payment and was closed down in

October. A red-chip company is one that is based in Hong Kong but controlled from the Chinese mainland.

Guangdong Investment, part of debt-laden Guangdong Enterprises (Holdings) Ltd., said falling property and investment values had led to an exceptional charge of 1.78 billion dollars. The company said consolidated net liabilities totaled about 6.33 billion dollars at the end of 1998, while net assets stood at 6.21 billion dollars. Analysts said the loss was within expectations, and shares in Guangdong Investment rose 2 cents to close at 1.34 dollars.

Guangdong Investment's chairman, Zhong Guangchao, said that although 1998 was the most difficult year of the past decade for the company, 1999 "may prove equally challenging."

The company plans to shed non-core assets such as its cement and timber operations as part of its restructuring and to focus on utilities, infrastructure, property and hotels.

Guangdong Investment said financial difficulties faced by related companies had affected its operations by shaking the confidence of its bankers. (Reuters, Bloomberg)

BP Amoco Faces Setback in China

BEIJING — BP Amoco PLC, the world's third-largest publicly traded oil company, said Wednesday that its plans to build a \$2.5 billion ethylene plant in China face an indefinite delay because authorities show no signs of approving the project.

The complex was to be built in Jinshan in a 50-50 joint venture with Shanghai Petrochemical Co.

"It usually takes half a year between submitting the proposal to getting it approved. We have already exceeded that," said Yi Ming, BP Amoco China's public affairs manager.

According to an executive for Shanghai Petrochemical, authorities have "suspended" five other joint ventures as China restructures its loss-making state enterprises and restricts overseas borrowing. This has happened even as authorities push local oil companies to upgrade their existing ethylene plants to cope with an expected increase in demand for the product, a raw material used in making plastics.



Nippon Steel to Give Up Role in Chip Venture

TOKYO — Nippon Steel Corp. said Wednesday it would hand control of its computer memory-chip joint venture in Singapore to Hitachi Ltd., all but abandoning its five-and-a-half-year venture into microchips.

Nippon Steel and Hitachi each own 35 percent of Hitachi Nippon Steel Semiconductor, with the rest held by the Economic Development Board of Singapore.

Hitachi will try to quadruple production capacity of 64-megabit dynamic random-access memory chips at the Singapore facilities to 8 million a month by the end of 1999, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun reported, without citing sources.

The company will spend between

20 billion and 30 billion yen (\$166 million and \$249 million) to upgrade the factory so it can produce by March 2001 about 30,000 silicon wafers a month, compared with 20,000 at present, the report said. Computer chips are cut from such wafers.

The Singapore venture, which makes the D-RAMs that are used as main memory chips in personal computers, is Nippon Steel's last remaining chip business.

Very briefly:

• South Korea's financial supervisors warned that the government would step in to restructure the country's investment trust companies beginning in July 2000. Lee Hun Jai, head of the Financial Supervisory Commission, said the restructuring would follow an order for the companies to gradually reduce nonperforming assets.

• Japan's prefectural and city governments hold a fast-growing mountain of debt that already exceeds \$2.3 trillion yen (\$43.9 billion), or 10.5 percent of Japan's total gross domestic product, Moody's Investors Service Inc. said.

• Mazda Motor Corp. and Ford Motor Co. will jointly develop environmentally friendly engines for small cars, the daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun said, without citing sources.

• Malaysia's gross domestic product is expected to expand by 1 percent this year, the central bank said in its annual economic report. The growth projection assumes that international petroleum prices will stay constant.

(AFP, Bloomberg, AP)

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SPORTS

Russia Blasts 6 To Beat Andorra

Romania and Estonia Also Win

The Associated Press
MOSCOW — Russia picked up its second victory in Group 4, dispatching Andorra 6-1 in a Euro 2000 qualifier Wednesday, as striker V. Zimir. Beschastnykh scored twice in a one-sided match at Moscow's Lokomotiv stadium.

Russia has six points in five matches in Group 4 and Andorra has lost all five of its qualifiers.

Yegor Titov opened the scoring in the 8th minute on a free kick. Four minutes later, Beschastnykh headed in the second goal on a cross from the right from Vadim Yevseyev. Ilya Tsybulya assisted Viktor Onopko with the third goal late in the first half and scored his own early in the second half. Beschastnykh made it 5-0 in the 63rd minute.

Second half substitute Julio Sanchez scored the only goal for Andorra in the 73rd minute. Dmitri Alenichov scored the final goal for Russia in the last minute.

Romania 1, Azerbaijan 0 Florentin Petre scored in the 49th minute to give Romania

victory over Azerbaijan in a Euro 2000 Group 7 qualifier at Baku's central stadium Wednesday.

Four minutes into the second half Petre took advantage of an Azerbaijan defense mistake and kicked the ball over their goalkeeper Gusein Mamedov.

Estonia 2, Lithuania 1 Sergei Terekhov scored twice as visitors Estonia beat Lithuania for its second victory in a Group 4 qualifier Wednesday.

Terekhov opened the scoring in the 49th minute and added another goal in the 77th minute. Artur Põlme scored for Lithuania in the 83rd minute.

Moldova 0, Northern Ireland 0 In a game lacking spectacle and flair, Northern Ireland drew 0-0 in a Group 4 qualifier in Moldova on Wednesday.

The closest chance for a goal came as the second half opened with Northern Ireland's Steve Lomas kicking a powerful shot that Moldova goalkeeper Ivan Dinov saved.

Slovakia 0, Hungary 0 Slovakia and Hungary tied 0-0 in their Group 7 qualifier in



FLYING START — Amoroso, center, shooting past Takashi Shimoda, Japan's goalie, to score Brazil's first goal as Yutaka Akita, right, a Japanese defender, closes in. Brazil beat Japan, 2-0, Wednesday in Tokyo.

the first international match between the two neighboring countries.

Even five minutes of injury time failed to produce a winner before 22,000 fans at the Slovan Stadium in Bratislava.

Peter Dubovsky nearly scored in the 10th minute, but was thwarted by Gabor Kiraly,

the Hungarian goalkeeper.

Ukraine 1, Iceland 1 Ukraine was held to a disappointing 1-1 draw in a home game against Iceland in a Group 4 qualifier Wednesday.

Ukrainian Vladyslav Vaschuk opened the scoring in the 57th minute, while Iceland now has nine points in as many games.

a powerful shot past goalie Birgir Kristinnsson.

Iceland equalized in the 66th minute when Larus Sigurdsson deflected a powerful shot from outside the penalty area into the goal.

The draw gave Ukraine 11 points in five games, while Iceland now has nine points in as many games.

Brazil Downs Japan

Still shaken by its first-ever loss to South Korea on Sunday, Brazil managed to avoid further embarrassment by beating Japan, 2-0, in a friendly at Tokyo's National Stadium on Wednesday. The Associated Press reported from Tokyo.

The Associated Press reported from Tokyo.

Lara's 153 Spurs Team to Victory

The Associated Press
BRIDGETOWN, Barbados — Brian Lara hit an unbeaten 153 to lead the West Indies to a one-wicket victory over Australia on the final afternoon of the third cricket test.

The West Indies, set 308 runs to win, made 311 for nine wickets Tuesday, with Lara hitting the winning boundary. Lara batted 353 minutes, faced 256 balls and hit 19 fours and a six.

The West Indies leads the four-match series, 2-1.

Lara, a 29-year-old left-hander, gave one chance, dropped by Ian Healy, the Australian wicket-keeper, on 145 with the West Indies on 301 for eight.

The fast bowling duo of Glenn McGrath and Jason Gillespie led Australia, but leg spinners Shane Warne and Stuart MacGill were ineffective and used sparingly on a good batting surface.

The West Indies started the day on 85 for three in its second innings. It slumped to 105 for five and then 248 for eight. But Lara said he never contemplated defeat.

"I told myself this morning that if I stayed till the end, I think the other guys would

stay there with me," Lara said. "So I didn't give up hope at all, even when we were eight wickets down."

Lara and fellow left-handers Jimmy Adams and Curtly Ambrose shared the most telling stands of the day. The captain put on 133 with Adams, who made 38, and 54 for the ninth wicket with Ambrose, a specialist bowler, who made 12 in 82 minutes.

When Ambrose was out, the West Indies was six runs from victory and one wicket from defeat as Courtney Walsh, another specialist bowler, came in to partner Lara.

Walsh negotiated the final four balls of Gillespie's over, including a no-ball.

Lara edged the first ball of McGrath's over just wide of first slip and scampered for two runs. He defended against the next three balls before McGrath, trying to prevent Lara scoring, conceded a wide off the fifth ball. Lara hooked the next delivery for a single to level the scores and Walsh survived the final ball of the over.

Lara then lashed the next ball from Gillespie to the boundary to give the West Indies victory.

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

EXHIBITION BASEBALL

THURSDAY RESULTS

Tampa Bay 5, Minnesota 3

Atlanta 2, Cleveland 2

Montreal 7, Baltimore 6

Houston 4, Detroit 2

Kansas City 5, Philadelphia 4

Pittsburgh 4, Toronto 4

Cincinnati 4, New York Yankees 2

Los Angeles 2, St. Louis 0

New York Mets 2, Florida 0

Oakland 10, Anaheim 2

Seattle 9, Arizona 5

San Diego 6, Milwaukee 4

San Francisco 10, Chicago Cubs 9

Chicago White Sox 6, Colorado 1

St. Louis 10, New York Yankees 2

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ART BUCHWALD

Have Gun? Will Sue

NEW YORK — My big decision this week is whether to sue the gun manufacturers. For the first time in history the courts have decreed that guns are a dangerous product, and if you get bit by a bullet you can sue the gun maker.

Like tobacco victims, people are suing with the argument that guns kill people, not people kill people. This is a hard pill for the manufacturers and importers to swallow. For years the party line of the gun lovers has been that guns kill only squirrels, rabbits and soup cans.



Now the states and cities are maintaining that guns are costing millions of dollars in hospital fees and other destruction. The gun lobby has gone into high gear, trying to avoid a financial debacle such as the one afflicting the cigarette producers.

Charlton Moses, president

A Dim View of the Profession

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's not just the public that thinks the news media lack credibility. According to a survey, journalists are now saying the same thing.

The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press interviewed 552 national and local journalists and news executives in print, television, radio and the Internet on how they view themselves.

The results, released Tuesday, indicate that journalists think that reporting has become sloppier, that too many reporters use their articles and newscasts to speculate or state opinion and that financial pressures hamper the quality of news coverage.

"A solid majority of journalists now are extremely critical of their profession on questions of news blurring with entertainment and commentary blurring with reporting," said Tom Rosenstiel, director of the Project for Excellence in Journalism, a media think tank in Washington.

A Son Haunted by the Wagner Family Legacy

By Alessandra Stanley
New York Times Service

MILAN — In Gottfried Wagner's basement office there is only one portrait of a composer. It is a concert poster of Franz Liszt, who among other things was Richard Wagner's father-in-law. The only likeness of Gottfried Wagner's most illustrious ancestor is a tiny framed black-and-white sketch of a 19th-century couple in a Venetian gondola; the male silhouette figure in the picture is, says Gottfried Wagner, Richard Wagner.

"I have no pictures of Wagner or of Bayreuth," Gottfried Wagner explained as he gave a tour. "This is where I live and work. I couldn't bear to have such images around me." It is an odd flare of sensibility, given that Wagner, who turns 53 in April, has dedicated his adult life to proclaiming the unbearable heaviness of being a Wagner.

Persona non grata at the family home in Bayreuth, Gottfried Wagner for years has haunted the lecture circuits of the United States, Europe and, beginning in 1990, Israel, talking about his feelings of guilt and anger as a German and, most particularly, as the direct descendant of the great composer, whose music became the anthem of the Third Reich, and whose anti-Semitic writings helped legitimize those of Hitler.

"Because his music is so entwined with the totalitarian ideas, it cannot be innocently enjoyed," Wagner said with an intensity that is his last remaining brightness. "I cannot listen to Wagner's music for fun."

And fun is something that has eluded Wagner. He now lives in a modest house in a small suburb outside Milan with his Italian wife, Teresina, and their 14-year-old son, Engenio, a Romanian orphan they adopted in 1991. These days, Gottfried is mostly found on the road, promoting the American edition of his autobiography, "Twilight of the Wagners," which is due to arrive in bookstores in May.

Published two years ago in Germany, the book is ostensibly a look at how Wagner's heirs — mainly Gottfried's father, Wolfgang, and his pro-Nazi grandmother, Winifred — cloaked their close relationship to Hitler to maintain their control of the Bayreuth Festival after World War II. For historians, or even for Germans who have been amply exposed to the bitter power struggle between Wagner family generations for control of the festival, there is little news in his book.

"Twilight of the Wagners" is a very personal cry of rage, but not so much at Wagner, who died six years before Hitler was born and 64 years before the author, who is the composer's great-grandson. Mostly, the autobiography is a son's attempt to get even with the father who neglected, belittled and then disowned him, a "Papa Dearest" set against the rich backdrop of Goetterdaemmerung and the Third Reich.

Gottfried, who is banned from the Bayreuth Festival, has no hope of ever succeeding his father, who at 80 still firmly rules the Festspielhaus. Gottfried said he long ago lost any ambition to do so. Now he just wants all other Wagners to be removed from future Bayreuth management. "Only by a real radical change can there be a real redemption," he said. "Even in my generation, the cousins have learned nothing from the Wagner family history."

Like the basement office ostentatiously stripped of Wagner family mementos, the book is an act of defiance and retaliation, a poignant one in that the one person it was written for, his father, Wolfgang, will probably never read it.

Perhaps the most chilling account of their relationship can be found not in Gottfried's autobiography, where his father is featured on almost every page, but in his father's coolly proud 1994 memoir telling how he revived Bayreuth from the ashes of Germany's defeat.

There are just two mentions of his only son, Gottfried. He makes an impersonal, one-sentence note



Gottfried Wagner: "I cannot listen to Wagner's music for fun."

of his birth. There is no further mention until page 176, where he sums up the family's epic disputes and estrangements in a paragraph. Asserting that his two children, Gottfried and Eva, never accepted his second marriage or his unwillingness to give them a role in managing the Bayreuth Festival, he concludes, "So it was inevitable that we should drift apart." Hitler receives many more mentions.

Father and son have not spoken since Gottfried went to Israel in 1990. Gottfried said that even today his father returns his letters and pictures of his grandchild.

"Can you imagine sending back pictures of this lovely child," exclaimed Gottfried. "What does Engenio have to do with this disgusting family fight?"

His book begins with his first memory, of being 4 years old and miserable at the boarding school to which his parents had sent him in 1951 so they could devote themselves to reopening the Bayreuth Festival, suspended since the end of the war.

Misery and a rebellion hunted by a desperate eagerness to be included in the family business are the leitmotifs of Gottfried's youth. By

his mid-20s, unable to convince his father that he had musical talent of his own, he struck back, writing his university thesis on Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht. The import of his choice was not lost on the family.

He cites the reaction of his grandmother Winifred, who was an early and avid supporter of Hitler: "So you're getting mixed up with the Jews and even the left wing-ers!"

From there on, his story is a rather sad one of a young man in search of acceptance outside the family. A musicologist, he has with limited success directed operas around the world, but not at Bayreuth. He said, and his cousin Eva Wagner concurred, that his father did his best to discredit him with other opera houses.

But even outside the family circle, his is a life hatched with disputes with friends and falling-outs with business associates. He finds solace in his wife's Italian relatives, "as warm as mine were cold," and in the company of Jews who savor the irony of a Wagner so repentantly immersed in commemorating the Holocaust.

Wagner's music is still banned in Israel. Wolfgang Wagner's efforts to reconcile Bayreuth and the Jews, notably by inviting a Jewish conductor, Daniel Barenboim, to perform at Bayreuth, are scorned by the son as insincere public relations efforts, or "Redemption Inc."

Gottfried is appalled by the family's past and the roots of German totalitarianism that are so entwined in Wagner's life and music. His book implicitly makes clear as well that Gottfried has found in the charge of anti-Semitism the most potent weapon to strike back at his father. The work, emotional in style and stinging on research, may not convince many readers that Gottfried is an impartial judge of the Wagner family sins, but it may well convince them that Wolfgang was a terrible father.

And for Gottfried, maybe finally that will be enough.



LET'S EAT — Gerry Thomas, creator of the TV dinner, leaving his palm prints at Mann's Chinese Theater to celebrate the repast's 45th year.

THE actor Tom Arnold has filed for divorce from his second wife, Julie Lynn Champnella, whom he married after parting from the television personality Roseanne. Arnold, who cited irreconcilable differences, met Champnella while she was a college student in Michigan. They have been married for three years and eight months.

A woman accused of stalking Dennis Rodman has pleaded not guilty and has been ordered held on \$50,000 bail. Marie Boguszewski was charged in Newport Beach, California, with three counts of making terrorist threats and one count of electronic stalking. Prosecutors allege that she e-mailed and called Rodman's former agent hundreds of times to request a date with the basketball celebrity and that she threatened to kill three employees of the agency when she learned the messages had not been forwarded to Rodman.

Princess Alexandra, the wife of

Prince Joachim of Denmark, is pregnant, the royal family announced in Copenhagen. The couple's first child is expected in September. The baby will also be Queen Margrethe's first grandchild. Joachim is second in line to the throne after his older brother, Crown Prince Frederik, who is unmarried.

Spike Lee told students at the University of Georgia in Athens that his new movie, about the Son of Sam killer, isn't a diversion from his black-theme movies but a look at the region he loves. "Black folks are saying Spike's sold out," he said. "For me this is a New York story." The movie depicts the hunt for David Berkowitz, who killed six people in random shootings in New York City in 1976 and 1977. The movie, "Summer of Sam," is due out in July.

Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Virginia, touted Fabio's ride on a new roller coaster called Apollo's Chariot as "Modern-Day Adonis vs. Ancient-Day

Sun God." But a bird mistaged the model. It flew into Fabio's nose, cutting him and sending blood streaking down his chin and cheeks. Fabio was treated for a one-inch cut on the bridge of his nose and released from a hospital. A park spokeswoman said, "We're very sorry that it happened. It was an act of nature."

The state library in Berlin has bought the largely unpublished diaries of Fanny Hensel, sister of the composer Felix

Mendelssohn, at auction for 120,000 Deutsche marks (about \$67,000). The diaries, which date from 1834 and continue until shortly before Hensel's death in 1847, contain descriptions of daily events in the Mendelssohn family. A music album of the Princess Marie von Sayn-Wittgenstein, which contains 48 handwritten pages by such composers as Beethoven, Liszt, Smetana and Wagner, was bought by the Goethe and Schiller archive of Weimar, Germany, also for 120,000 DM.

UN's Robinson Is Given Erasmus Prize

Agence France-Press

AMSTERDAM — The 1999 Erasmus Prize has been awarded to Mary Robinson, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights since 1997, the Erasmus Foundation announced.

The former president of Ireland received the prize in recognition of her role as a "worthy standard-bearer for collective responsibility" — the theme chosen for this year's award, which is the Netherlands' highest cultural prize. The foundation is named after the 15th-century Dutch humanist and is chaired by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, husband of former Queen Juliana.



(take in a rock show)

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